

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

EZEKIEL



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

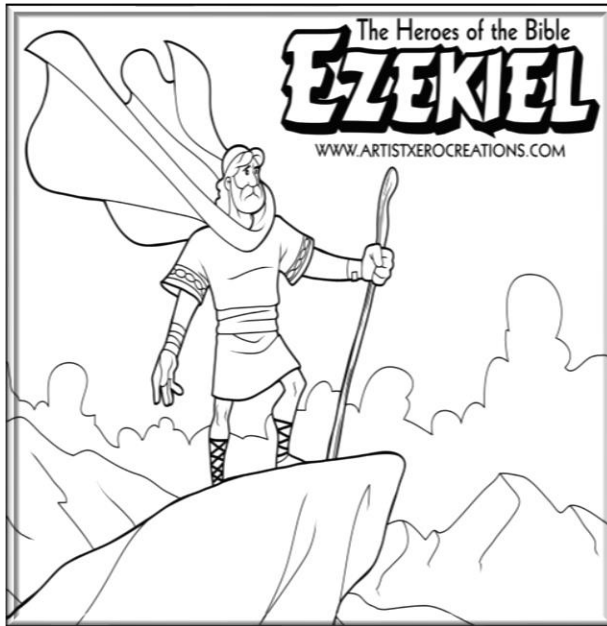
DAVID HOBRATH

Ezekiel

God calls Ezekiel to speak to Israel, preach holiness, and teach justice.
Author: Ezekiel, he was preaching to Jews in Babylon during the captivity.

In Ezekiel – Jesus is the Son of Man

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."



The above right illustration is 1 of 66 marble plates that include the entire book of Ezekiel found on the inner walls of Ezekiel's tomb, found near the Euphrates River, in ancient Babylon, modern day Iraq. Today the beautiful plates are located in the Yad Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem. Below, Ezekiel on the time-line.

950	900	850	800	750	700	650	600	550	500	450	400
Egypt			Assyria			Babylon		Persia			
N. & S. Kingdoms			Judah Alone			Exile		Post-Exile			
△ Solomon dies			△ Israel falls			△ Judah falls		△ Captives return			
Major Prophets			Isaiah			Jeremiah/Lam. Daniel Ezekiel					
Minor Prophets			Obadiah Joel	Jonah Amos Hosea	Micah	Nahum Zephaniah Habakkuk		Haggai Zechariah	Malachi		
Other Prophets & OT Books			Elijah Elisha					Esther Ezra Nehemiah			

TEACHER: 48 CHAPTERS

Ezekiel was born into the tribe of Levi, through the line of Kohen. The name Kohen referred to the direct descendants of Aaron. He was a priest 1st, then his ministry was deepened into that of a prophet. He was taken to Babylon from his home in Jerusalem with the 1st group of captives. This was before the destruction of both the Temple and Jerusalem. In fact, while he was in exile, he prophesied of Jerusalem's destruction. Ezekiel knew Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He was married and became a widower in chapter 24 where he announces that his wife had passed away. More than anything, Ezekiel is a book about hope. In chapter 37 Ezekiel talks about a valley of dry bones that come back to life. And not just life, but fulfilled destiny. Redemption. Through all his prophesy's and judgements, there is hope.

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CH. 1

STUDENT:

It was the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month of our captivity. I was by the Kebar River among the people who had been carried away as captives. The sky opened, and I saw visions of God...

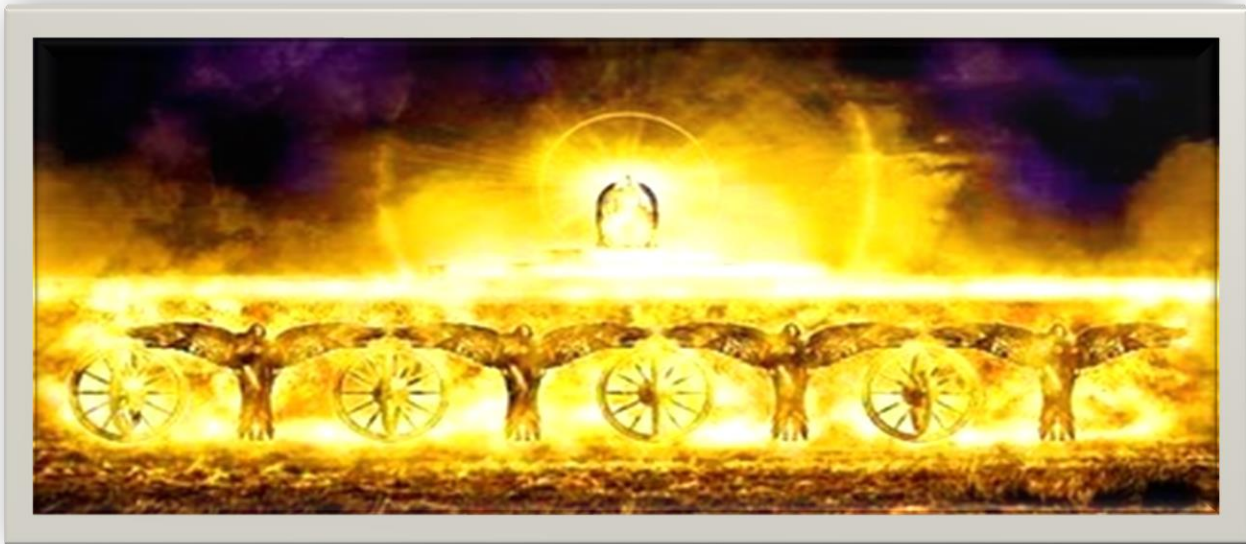
³The LORD spoke his word to Ezekiel son of Buzi in the land of the Babylonians by the Kebar River. There he felt the power of the LORD....

⁴When I looked, I saw a stormy wind coming from the north. There was a great cloud with a bright light around it and fire flashing out of it. Something that looked like glowing metal was in the center of the fire. (NCV)

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STUDENT:

⁵Inside the cloud was what looked like four living creatures, who were shaped like humans, ⁶but each of them had four faces and four wings. ⁷Their legs were straight. Their feet were like a calf's hoofs and sparkled like polished bronze. ⁸The living creatures had human hands under their wings on their four sides. All four of them had faces and wings, ⁹and their wings touched each other. The living creatures did not turn when they moved, but each went straight ahead. (NCV)



TEACHER:

The above line drawing is a noble attempt at drawing Ezekiel's vision. About the best I've seen. But how do you draw God? How can a person even try to describe God? Ezekiel gives us an impressive attempt.

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STUDENT:

²⁶ Now above the dome there was something that looked like a throne. It looked like a sapphire gem. And on the throne was a shape like a human. ²⁷ Then I noticed that from the waist up the shape looked like glowing metal with fire inside. From the waist down it looked like fire, and a bright light was all around.

²⁸ The surrounding glow looked like the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day. It seemed to look like the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I bowed facedown on the ground and heard a voice speaking. (NCV)

TEACHER:

Ezekiel has a visit from the Lord. God tells him of his calling and gives him instruction.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

He said to me, "Human, stand up on your feet so I may speak with you." ² While he spoke to me, the Spirit entered me and put me on my feet. Then I heard the LORD speaking to me....

"Human, I am sending you to the people of Israel. That nation has turned against me and broken away from me...."

⁴ I am sending you to people who are stubborn and who do not obey. You will say to them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says.' ⁵ They may listen, or they may not, since they are a people who have turned against me. But they will know that a prophet has been among them....

Don't turn against me as those people do. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you." (NCV)

TEACHER:

God hands him a scroll full of sad songs and funeral dirges.

CH. 3

STUDENT:

Then the LORD said to me, "Human, eat what you find; eat this scroll. Then go and speak to the people of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

³ He said to me, "Human, eat this scroll which I am giving you, and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. (NCV)

TEACHER:

God has given Ezekiel the words to speak, in the scroll, and with it the resolve to speak those words.

STUDENT:

"Human, go to the people of Israel, and speak my words to them. ⁵ You are not being sent to people whose speech you can't understand, whose language is difficult. You are being sent to Israel...."

"Yes, all the people of Israel are stubborn and will not obey. ⁸ See, I now make you as stubborn and as hard as they are. ⁹ I am making you as hard as a diamond, harder than stone....." (NCV)

TEACHER:

Then God tells him to have faith in the message God has given to him to speak, if they listen or not.

STUDENT:

"Human, believe all the words I will speak to you, and listen carefully to them. ¹¹ Then go to the captives, your own people, and say to them, 'The Lord GOD says this.' Tell them this whether they listen or not."

¹² Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a loud rumbling sound behind me, saying, "Praise the glory of the LORD in heaven." ¹³ I heard the wings of the living creatures touching each other and the sound of the wheels by them. It was a loud rumbling sound. ¹⁴ So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away." (NCV)

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TEACHER:

God takes him to Kebar, a river near Tel Abib.

It was a city built for Jewish exiles.

He sat there for 1 week. After 7 days to regain his composure, God speaks to him again.



STUDENT:

¹⁶ After seven days the LORD spoke his word to me again. He said, ¹⁷ "Human, I now make you a watchman for Israel. Any time you hear a word from my mouth, warn them for me. ¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' you must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death. ¹⁹ If you warn the wicked and they do not turn from their wickedness or their evil ways, they will die because of their sin. But you will have saved your life. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

God repeats the above paragraph again, almost word for word, and then tells Ezekiel to go to the plain. He sees the Lord standing there just like at the river, and bows down to the ground. In verse 24 he says,

"The Spirit entered into me and made me stand on my feet." He repeats this several times in this book.

Still to this day when the Judge enters the courtroom, you stand.

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STUDENT:

He spoke to me and said, "Go, shut yourself up in your house. ²⁵ As for you, human, the people will tie you up with ropes so that you will not be able to go out among them. ²⁶ Also, I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so you will be silent. You will not be able to argue with the people, even though they turn against me. ²⁷ But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth, and you will say to them, 'The Lord GOD says this.' Those who will listen, let them listen. Those who refuse, let them refuse, because they are a people who turn against me. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

The last part of what was just read. "Those who will listen, let them listen, those who refuse, let them refuse." Where else do we hear that in scripture? Revelation 22:10-11. The last page in the Bible.

¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy." (NIV)

How do these 2 passages apply to us today? And how does this affect the earlier passage in Ezekiel where God makes us a watchman, and if we don't warn them, that we will be accountable?

Justifying the 2 passages makes a strong case for not legislating morality on a personal level. It is right to have laws against sin for a nation. We know this from Leviticus. However it is not our position in God's kingdom to police everyone's life. Speak the truth, condemn sin, and love everybody. Some will ignore, those that listen, disciple them as the Lord commanded in the "Great Commission."

In chapter 4 we have 3 illustrated prophecies. "The Battle Map" "The Sleep" and "The Bread."

CH. 4

STUDENT: *The Battle Map*

"Now, human, get yourself a brick, put it in front of you, and draw a map of Jerusalem on it. ² Then surround it with an army. Build battle works against the city and a dirt road to the top of the city walls....

Turn your face toward the city as if to attack it and then attack. This is a sign to Israel. (NCV)

STUDENT: *The Sleep*

⁴ "Then lie down on your left side, and take the guilt of Israel on yourself. Their guilt will be on you for the number of days you lie on your left side. ⁵ I have given you the same number of days as the years of the people's sin. So you will have the guilt of Israel's sin on you for three hundred ninety days.

⁶ "After you have finished these three hundred ninety days, lie down a second time, on your right side. You will then have the guilt of Judah on you. I will give it to you for forty days, a day for each year of their sin.

⁷ Then you will look toward Jerusalem, which is being attacked. With your arm bare, you will prophesy against Jerusalem. ⁸ I will put ropes on you so you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have finished the days of your attack on Jerusalem. (NCV)

STUDENT: *The Bread*

⁹ "Take wheat, barley, beans, small peas, and millet seeds, and put them in one bowl, and make them into bread for yourself. You will eat it the three hundred ninety days you lie on your side. ¹⁰ You will eat eight ounces of food every day at set times. ¹¹ You will drink about two-thirds of a quart of water every day at set times. ¹² Eat your food as you would eat a barley cake, baking it over human dung where the people can see." ¹³ Then the LORD said, "In the same way Israel will eat unclean food among the nations where I force them to go." (NCV)

TEACHER:

Having a discriminating palate, Ezekiel refuses.

STUDENT: *The compromise*

But I said, "No, Lord GOD! I have never been made unclean. From the time I was young until now I've never eaten anything that died by itself or was torn by animals. Unclean meat has never entered my mouth."

¹⁵ "Very well," he said. "Then I will give you cow's dung instead of human dung to use for your fire to bake your bread." (NCV)

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TEACHER:

The purpose of these illustrations is to inform Judah why they are being punished, (rebellion against God's commands), why the punishment is so long, (they have sinned for so long), and also to give them time to repent. These illustrated prophecies would take over a year to complete. 430 days. In chapter 5 God gives Ezekiel another illustrated prophecy. "A Hair Cut."

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CH. 5

STUDENT: *The Hair Cut*

"Now, human, take a sharp sword, and use it like a barber's razor to shave your head and beard. Then take scales and weigh and divide the hair. ² Burn one-third with fire in the middle of the city when the days of the attack on Jerusalem are over. Then take one-third and cut it up with the knife all around the city. And scatter one-third to the wind. This is how I will chase them with a sword. ³ Also take a few of these hairs and tie them in the folds of your clothes. ⁴ Take a few more and throw them into the fire and burn them up. From there a fire will spread to all the people of Israel. (NCV)

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STUDENT: *The interpretation*

⁵ "This is what the Lord GOD says: This is Jerusalem. I have put her at the center of the nations with countries all around her. ⁶ But she has refused to obey my laws and has been more evil than the nations. She has refused to obey my rules, even more than nations around her. The people of Jerusalem have rejected my laws and have not lived by my rules.

⁷ "So this is what the Lord GOD says: You have caused more trouble than the nations around you. You have not followed my rules or obeyed my laws. You have not even obeyed the laws of the nations around you.

⁸ "So this is what the Lord GOD says: I myself am against you, and I will punish you as the nations watch. ⁹ I will do things among you that I have not done before and that I will never do anything like again, because you do the things I hate. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

God's judgement will be so severe that Israel will resort to cannibalism.

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ So parents among you will eat their children, and children will eat their parents. I will punish you and will scatter to the winds all who are left alive. ¹¹ So the Lord GOD says: You have made my Temple unclean with all your evil idols and the hateful things you do. Because of this, as surely as I live, I will cut you off. I will have no pity, and I will show no mercy. ¹² A third of you will die by disease or be destroyed by hunger inside your walls.

A third will fall dead by the sword outside your walls. And a third I will scatter in every direction as I chase them with a sword. ¹³ Then my anger will come to an end. I will use it up against them, and then I will be satisfied. Then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken. After I have carried out my anger against them, they will know how strongly I felt. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

The prophecy against the children of Jacob doesn't stop with people either. God judges the land as well.

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CH. 6

STUDENT:

Again the LORD spoke his word to me, saying: ²“Human, look toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them. ³Say, ‘Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord God. The Lord God says this to the mountains, the hills, the ravines, and the valleys: I will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your places of idol worship. ⁴Your altars will be destroyed and your incense altars broken down. Your people will be killed in front of your idols. ⁵I will lay the dead bodies of the Israelites in front of their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars. ⁶In all the places you live, cities will become empty.....
Then you will know that I am the LORD. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Now 6 chapters into the Book of Ezekiel, we see the hope.

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STUDENT:

⁸“But I will leave some people alive; some will not be killed by the nations when you are scattered among the foreign lands. ⁹Then those who have escaped will remember me, as they live among the nations where they have been taken as captives. They will remember how I was hurt because they were unfaithful to me and turned away from me and desired to worship their idols. They will hate themselves because of the evil things they did that I hate. ¹⁰Then they will know that I am the LORD. I did not bring this terrible thing on them for no reason
(NCV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 7 covers the destruction in more detail until chapter 8 where we find Ezekiel sitting, with the elders of Judah in front of him.

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STUDENT:

I was sitting in my house with the elders of Judah in front of me. There I felt the power of the Lord God. ²I looked and saw something that looked like a human. From the waist down it looked like fire, and from the waist up it looked like bright glowing metal. ³It stretched out the shape of a hand and caught me by the hair on my head. The Spirit lifted me up between the earth and the sky. He took me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance to the north gate of the inner courtyard of the Temple. In the courtyard was the idol that caused God to be jealous. ⁴I saw the glory of the God of Israel there, as I had seen on the plain. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

God takes Ezekiel all over Israel, even to the Temple, and shows him what is happening in the privacy of their homes. The idol worship is everywhere in Israel, even in the Temple.

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STUDENT:

¹⁶Then he brought me into the inner courtyard of the Temple. There I saw about twenty-five men at the entrance to the Temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar. With their backs turned to the Temple of the LORD, they faced east and were worshipping the sun in the east. (NCV)

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TEACHER:

Ezekiel receives a vision from God revealing God’s process during judgement. A behind the scenes glimpse into how things are done.

CH. 8

CH. 9

STUDENT:

Then he shouted with a loud voice in my ears, "You who are chosen to punish this city, come near with your weapon in your hand..."

³ Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the creatures with wings, where it had been, to the place in the Temple where the door opened. He called to the man dressed in linen who had the writing case at his side. ⁴ He said to the man, "Go through Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the people who groan and cry about all the hateful things being done among them...."

STUDENT:

Then he said to the men, "Make the Temple unclean, and fill the courtyards with those who have been killed. Go out!" So the men went out and killed the people in the city. ⁸ While the men were killing the people, I was left alone. I bowed facedown on the ground and I cried out, "Oh, Lord GOD! Will you destroy everyone left alive in Israel when you turn loose your anger on Jerusalem?"

¹⁰ But I will have no pity, nor will I show mercy. I will bring their evil back on their heads." (NCV)

TEACHER:

Ezekiel now is re-ushered into the throne room from chapters 1-3. The living creatures from the 1st visit are now called cherubim. They are here now on Earth to remove the presence of God from the Temple. One interesting point here, is the coals of fire from the 1st visit to anoint Ezekiel, are here used to exact judgement.

STUDENT:

I looked, and I saw the likeness of a throne of lapis lazuli above the vault that was over the heads of the cherubim. ² The LORD said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the wheels beneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city."...

⁴ Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD....

Then the cherubim rose upward. These were the living creatures I had seen by the Kebar River. ¹⁶ When the cherubim moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the cherubim spread their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels did not leave their side. (NIV)

TEACHER:

Everything we have read from chapter 7 up to now has been going on in Ezekiel's vision while he is sitting in front of the elders of Judah. All of a sudden the vision turns on them.

CH. 11

STUDENT:

Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the gate of the house of the LORD that faces east. There at the entrance of the gate were twenty-five men...

The LORD said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who are plotting evil and giving wicked advice in this city. ³ They say, 'Haven't our houses been recently rebuilt? This city is a pot, and we are the meat in it.' ⁴ Therefore prophesy against them; prophesy, son of man."...

I will execute judgment on you at the borders of Israel. ¹² And you will know that I am the LORD, for you have not followed my decrees or kept my laws but have conformed to the standards of the nations around you."

¹³ Now as I was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I fell face down and cried out in a loud voice, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! Will you completely destroy the remnant of Israel?" (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Once again, after the judgement, the hope.

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STUDENT:

The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁵“Son of man, the people of Jerusalem have said of your fellow exiles and all the other Israelites, ‘They are far away from the LORD; this land was given to us as our possession.’

¹⁶“Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Although I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.’

¹⁷“Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.’ (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 12 starts with a passage repeated several times in the Bible, in Matthew, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Acts, Revelations, and Romans.

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STUDENT:

CH. 12

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.

³“Therefore, son of man, pack your belongings for exile and in the daytime, as they watch, set out and go from where you are to another place. Perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious people. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The Lord tells Ezekiel to prophesy that they will all be in exile, and they will always have anxiety. He also tells him that it will happen quickly.

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STUDENT:

²⁶The word of the LORD came to me: ²⁷“Son of man, the Israelites are saying, ‘The vision he sees is for many years from now, and he prophesies about the distant future.’ ²⁸“Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: None of my words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled, declares the Sovereign LORD.’” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

In Ezekiel 13 the Lord speaks against prophets who are lying. Do not to put words in the mouth of God.

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STUDENT: *The sin*

CH. 13

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: ‘Hear the word of the LORD! ³This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!...

⁵You have not gone up to the breaches in the wall to repair it for the people of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD. ⁶Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. Even though the LORD has not sent them, they say, “The LORD declares,” and expect him to fulfill their words. ⁷Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, “The LORD declares,” though I have not spoken? (NIV)

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STUDENT: *The sentence*

⁸ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD....

They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel....

¹⁰ “Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, ¹¹ therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall....

²² Because you disheartened the righteous with your lies, when I had brought them no grief, and because you encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil ways and so save their lives, ²³ therefore you will no longer see false visions or practice divination. I will save my people from your hands. And then you will know that I am the LORD.” (NIV)

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TEACHER:

The elders once again come to sit before Ezekiel and the word of God came to him. He repeats a phrase over and over that the Israelites set idols in their hearts and a stumbling block before their faces. How would you apply that to 21 century western cultured Christianity?

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STUDENT:

Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. ² Then the word of the LORD came to me: ³ “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?..

⁷ “When any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing in Israel separate themselves from me and set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet to inquire of me, I the LORD will answer them myself. ⁸ I will set my face against them and make them an example and a byword. I will remove them from my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD. (NIV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 14 ends with the revelation that the destruction of Jerusalem is inescapable. He names 3 of the greatest prophets of all time and states even the 3 together praying could not stop it. Noah, Daniel, and Job.

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STUDENT:

¹² The word of the LORD came to me: ¹³ “Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals, ¹⁴ even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD....

¹⁸ as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if these three men were in it, they could not save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved....

How much worse will it be when I send against Jerusalem my four dreadful judgments—sword and famine and wild beasts and plague—to kill its men and their animals! ²² Yet there will be some survivors—sons and daughters who will be brought out of it. (NIV)

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CH. 15

TEACHER:

In chapter 15 God uses the grape vine as an analogy for the Israelites. The Israelites felt to a certain extent that they were due salvation by the virtue of their blood line. God points out here the same principle Jesus would teach hundreds of years later when He uses the same analogy of the "true vine." The vine must produce fruits or it will be cut down.

STUDENT:

So this is what the Lord God says: "Out of all the trees in the forest, I have given the wood of the vine as fuel for fire. In the same way I have given up the people who live in Jerusalem ⁷ and will turn against them. Although they came through one fire, fire will still destroy them. When I turn against them, you will know that I am the LORD. ⁸ So I will make the land empty, because the people have not been loyal, says the Lord God." (NIV)

TEACHER:

Almost 200 years after the prophet Hosea, who married a prostitute at God's command so that He could use her unfaithfulness as an example, Ezekiel receives the same analogy. Israel is a prostitute/wife towards God.

STUDENT: *How God treated Israel*

CH. 16

The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices ³ and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem:

Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. ⁴ On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean....
"Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, 'Live!' ⁷ I made you grow like a plant of the field.... (NIV)

STUDENT:

⁸ "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine....

"I bathed you...put ointments on you....

I clothed you with an embroidered dress...

put sandals of fine leather on you.

I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments...

I adorned you with jewelry...I put...a beautiful crown on your head.(NIV)

STUDENT: *How Israel treated God*

"But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his. ¹⁶ You took some of your garments to make gaudy high places, where you carried on your prostitution....

You also took the fine jewelry I gave you, the jewelry made of my gold and silver, and you made for yourself male idols and engaged in prostitution with them...

You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols.... (NIV)

TEACHER:

After all this pronouncement and the documentation of their sins, God still loves. He is faithful.

STUDENT:

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant. ⁶⁰Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. ⁶¹Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, both those who are older than you and those who are younger. I will give them to you as daughters, but not on the basis of my covenant with you. ⁶²So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am the LORD. ⁶³Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign LORD.”
(NIV)

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 God uses an allegory of an eagle who plants the top of a cedar in Babylon. It grows greatly and then dies. This is the King of Judah dying in Babylon. He then says that God will take a cutting from the dying plant and transplant it in Israel. This is a Messianic prophesy much like Isaiah’s before him. Isaiah 11 tells of the rod, the stem of Jesse, the branch...

CH. 17

STUDENT:

²² “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. “I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.” (NIV)

TEACHER:

We will all stand alone to be judged by our own actions. The son shall not be punished for his father’s sins, and visa-versa. The day will come when we will be able to break the generational curse. That day was at Calvary.

CH. 18

STUDENT:

“The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

³ “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.... ⁵ “Suppose there is a righteous man who does what is just and right.... ⁹He follows my decrees and faithfully keeps my laws. That man is righteous; he will surely live, declares the Sovereign LORD.... ¹⁰ “Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things.... ²He oppresses the poor and needy. He commits robbery. (NIV)

STUDENT:

He does not return what he took in pledge. He looks to the idols. He does detestable things.....Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things, he is to be put to death; his blood will be on his own head.... ²⁰The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them. (NIV)

TEACHER:

This so far is what we mean when we say judgement, or more accurately, justice. Continuing, we see Holy Judgement.

STUDENT:

²¹ “But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²² None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live....

²⁴ “But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. (NIV)

STUDENT:

Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die....

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit... ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! (NIV)

TEACHER:

Skipping through the next few chapters that cover specific empires and people groups around Israel, The book of Ezekiel comes to a head when his wife dies, and the Lord tells him not to shed a tear. It is an example that Israel should not weep when Jerusalem is destroyed.

STUDENT:

¹⁵ The LORD spoke to me. ¹⁶ “Mortal man,” he said, “with one blow I am going to take away the person you love most. You are not to complain or cry or shed any tears. ¹⁷ Don’t let your sobbing be heard. Do not go bareheaded or barefoot as a sign of mourning. Don’t cover your face or eat the food that mourners eat.” ..

That evening my wife died, and the next day I did as I had been told. ¹⁹ The people asked me, “Why are you acting like this?” ... (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁰ So I said to them, “The LORD spoke to me and told me ²¹ to give you Israelites this message: You are proud of the strength of the Temple. You like to look at it and to visit it, but the LORD is going to profane it....

²² Then you will do what I have done. You will not cover your faces or eat the food that mourners eat...

²⁵ The LORD said, “Now, mortal man, I will take away from them the strong Temple that was their pride and joy, which they liked to look at and to visit. And I will take away their sons and daughters. ²⁶ On the day that I do this, some who escape the destruction will come and tell you about it.... (GNT)

CH.
19-23

CH. 24

TEACHER:

The next 12 chapters are judgements against the neighbors of Israel. This map shows how thorough God is.

CH. 20
Thru
CH.32



In chapter 33 The Lord appoints Ezekiel as a “Watchman to Israel.” Let us read, and discuss, “what are our duties as watchmen?”

CH. 33

STUDENT:

O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

⁸ When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

⁹ Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. (KJV)

TEACHER:

The message of the watchman is 2 fold. To the righteous we say “keep it up.” To the sinner we say, “Repent, God will forgive.”

STUDENT:

¹¹ Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:...

¹⁶ None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live....

¹³ When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. (KJV)

TEACHER:

In chapter 34 God reveals that He is the Good Shepherd. John reveals that this is Jesus. “I am the good shepherd.” John 10:11. The following is a beautiful version in Ezekiel of the Lord’s words from John.

CH. 34

STUDENT:

¹¹ "I, the Sovereign LORD, tell you that I myself will look for my sheep and take care of them ¹² in the same way as shepherds take care of their sheep that were scattered and are brought together again. I will bring them back from all the places where they were scattered on that dark, disastrous day. ¹³ I will take them out of foreign countries, gather them together, and bring them back to their own land...

STUDENT:

¹⁶ "I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that wander off, bandage those that are hurt, and heal those that are sick...I, the Sovereign LORD, tell you that I will judge each of you and separate the good from the bad, the sheep from the goats...²⁶ "I will bless them and let them live around my sacred hill. There I will bless them with showers of rain when they need it. ²⁷ The trees will bear fruit, the fields will produce crops, and everyone will live in safety on his own land. When I break my people's chains and set them free.

³¹ "You, my sheep, the flock that I feed, are my people, and I am your God," says the Sovereign LORD. (GNT)

TEACHER:

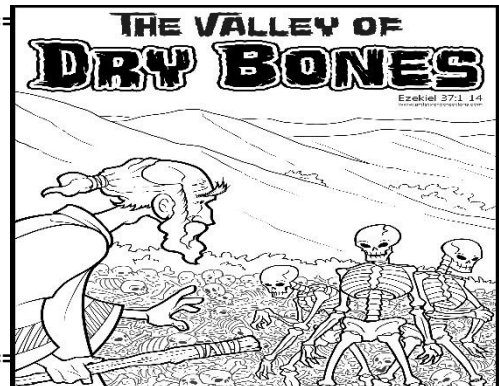
The valley of dry bones. A picture of God bringing His people home from the diaspora.

CH. 37

STUDENT:

I felt the powerful presence of the LORD, and his spirit took me and set me down in a valley where the ground was covered with bones. ² He led me all around the valley, and I could see that there were very many bones and that they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal man, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "Sovereign LORD, only you can answer that!" (GNT)



STUDENT:

⁴ He said, "Prophecy to the bones. Tell these dry bones to listen to the word of the LORD. ⁵ Tell them that I, the Sovereign LORD, am saying to them: I am going to put breath into you and bring you back to life. ⁶ I will give you sinews and muscles, and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you and bring you back to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Ezekiel prophesies as commanded and the bones in the valley come back to life. In chapter 39 God reveals His plan for the ultimate restoration of Israel.

STUDENT:

²⁵ The Sovereign LORD said, "But now I will be merciful to Jacob's descendants, the people of Israel, and make them prosperous again. I will protect my holy name. ²⁶ When they are once more living in safety in their own land, with no one to threaten them, they will be able to forget how they were disgraced for having betrayed me. ²⁷ In order to show to the many nations that I am holy, I will bring my people back from all the countries where their enemies live. ²⁸ Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God. They will know this, because I sent them into captivity and now gather them and bring them back into their own land, not leaving even one of them behind. ²⁹ I will pour out my spirit on the people of Israel and never again turn away from them. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken." (GNT)

CH. 40
CH. 41
CH. 42

TEACHER:

In Ezekiel chapter 40 God takes the prophet in a vision to Jerusalem.

He sees an angelic like being who was measuring the city walls and gates.

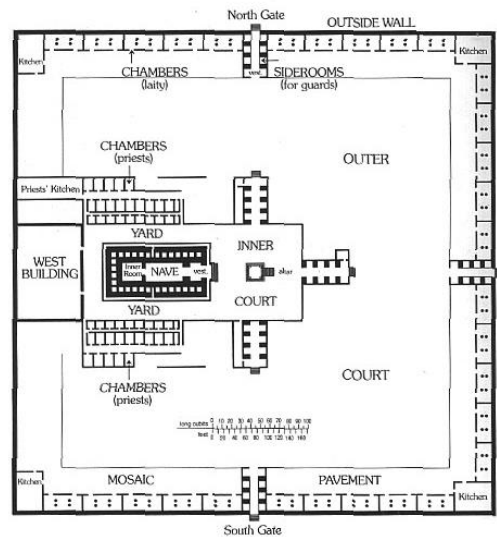
The end result of Chapters 40-43 are in the illustration below.

The millennial temple.

TEACHER:

In chapter 48 the land divisions for the millennial kingdom are set. See map to the right.

EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE, COURTS, WALLS, AND GATES



The 2nd Exodus
(the siege of Jerusalem)
prophesied in Ezekiel 4
is here inscribed in
The Babylonian Chronicles



NEXT LESSON DANIEL

"But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live...."

Ezekiel 18:21-22

The Tomb of Ezekiel in Iraq



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

So Hun.. what did God reveal to you today?



and the Lord said, "Human, I will take your wife. She will DIE!! but don't cry loudly."
Ez 24:15-17

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Got Milk?



Ezekiel 3:12 Hey Z-man.. eat a scroll.

