

Outline of the Book of Ezekiel

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1. The Call / Commissioning of Ezekiel

1:1-3 Superscription: identification of Ezekiel and his situation

1:4-28 Theophany: vision of the portable throne

2:1-7 Commissioning: “the spirit entered into me”

1. Identify those who are willing to hear and those who are not 2:5,7
2. Do not be afraid or dismayed 2:6
3. Speak God’s words so that all will know a prophet has been among them 2:4,7

2:8-3:3 Eating the Scroll: inculcating the word of God

3:4-11 Details of the task: “Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead”

1. The exiles can understand Ezekiel, but generally will not listen 3:4-7a
2. The exiles are stubborn and hardened 3:7b-8
3. God has made Ezekiel equal to the task 3:9-11

3:12-15 Attaining Understanding: “I sat there overwhelmed ... seven days”

3:16-21 The Role of the Watchman: the distinction between the “wicked” and the “righteous”

3:22-27 Conditions of Ezekiel’s service: “you cannot go out among the people ...you shall be mute”

2. The Impending Destruction of Jerusalem

4:1-3 Symbolic representation of the siege: “a sign for the exiles”

4:4-8 Symbolic action: “lie on your ... side ... prophesy against the city”

4:9-17 Symbolic action: “I will break the supply of bread” Lv26:26 “they shall ... rot away” Lv26:39

5:1-4 Symbolic action: “weigh and divide the hair” – a remnant will be identified

5:5-9 YHWH’s case against Jerusalem for breaking the Sinai Covenant Ex19:5

5:10-17 The covenant curses to be applied as required by the Sinai Covenant Lv26:14-39, Dt28:15-68

6:1-7 YHWH’s condemnation of Israel’s idolatry and the fate of idolatrous persons and places

6:8-10 A few will repent Lv26:40-45

6:11-14 Ezekiel to reiterate the application of the covenant curses

7:1-9 The Day of YHWH: impending destruction of Jerusalem a type of end-time

7:10-27 Retributive justice: the “wicked” will not go unpunished

- 7:10-13 Destruction is inevitable due to violence and iniquity
- 7:14-22 The wrath of God results in total collapse of the corrupt social order
- 7:23-27 Violence requires retribution: punishment is the only solution for the corruption

3. The First Temple Vision

8:1-4 The setting: Ezekiel is in his house with certain “elders”; he feels “the hand of YHWH upon him” and he sees a vision of “a Being” who takes him in “the Spirit” to the Temple in Jerusalem

8:5-18 Idolatry in the Temple: Ezekiel see various people in various parts of the temple participating in various forms of idolatry – invoking the wrath of YHWH

9:1-11 Ezekiel sees six “executioners” and one “man clothed in linen” who is told to mark those “who sigh and groan over the abominations”; the marker quickly does his job (were any found?) and the execution proceeds to the lament of Ezekiel

10:1-22 The portable throne reappears: the “man clothed in linen” obtains coals of fire and scatters them over the city; the glory (כְּבוֹד - kavod) of YHWH begins to leave the Temple

11:1-4 The metaphor of the cauldron: arrogance and wickedness of the thought leaders in Jerusalem; see also Jr24:1-10, Is28:14-15,18-19

11:5-13 Ezekiel is given a message of condemnation and death for the thought leaders

11:14-21 Prophecy of the Second Exodus and the New Covenant

11:22-23 The glory of YHWH leaves the Temple preparing it for destruction

11:24-25 Postscript: Ezekiel is back with the exiles and tells them “all the things” of the vision

4. Captivity Required Due to Corruption

12:1-7 Symbolic action: the exile's baggage
12:8-16 Prophecy of the fate of Zedekiah; see 2Kg25:4-7, Jr39:4-7,52:7-11
12:17-28 The Plan of God: "none of my words will be delayed any longer"
13:1-7 Against false prophets: "YHWH has not sent them"
13:8-16 Like a whitewashed wall: "saying 'Peace' when there is no peace"
13:17-23 Daughters who prophesy: "women who sew magic bands ... and make veils"
14:1-11 Elders of Israel: "have taken their idols into their hearts"
14:12-21 Covenant curses reiterated: "when a land sins against me"
14:22-23 The remnant: "some survivors will be left"

5. Wisdom Section

15:1-8 A Parable: Jerusalem – a useless vine
16:1-43 An Allegory: Jerusalem – the ungrateful whoring wife
16:44-58 An Allegory: Three corrupt sisters – Samaria, Jerusalem, and Sodom
16:59-63 A prophecy of the New Covenant: "when I atone for all that you have done"
17:1-10 A Parable: two eagles and a vine
17:11-21 Interpretation of the Parable: Babylon and Egypt – eagles; Jerusalem – the vine
17:22-24 A Messianic prophecy: "a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar"
18:1-32 A Proverb: "the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"
19:1-14 A Lamentation: "for the princes of Israel"; see Jr21:11-14,22:1-30

6. The Final Condemnation of Israel

20:1-8a From the beginning, Israel was steeped in idolatry: "none of them cast away ... the idols of Egypt"
20:8b-16 Instruction and condemnation in the desert: "for their heart went after their idols"
20:17-26 The sins of the wilderness generation: "but the children rebelled against me"
20:27-32 Continued sins in the promised land: "what is in your mind shall never happen"
20:33-39 Instruction and acceptance in the wilderness: "I will bring you into the ... covenant"
20:40-44 New Israel: "you shall know that I am YHWH"
20:45-49 A Parable – fire in the Negeb: "all faces from south to north shall be scorched"
21:1-13 The sword of YHWH: "cry out and wail ... for it is against my people"
21:14-27 The sword of the king of Babylon: "I will satisfy my fury, I YHWH have spoken"
21:28-32 The Ammonites will not be spared: "concerning their reproach"
22:1-12 The depths of corruption in Jerusalem: "me you have forgotten declares YHWH"
22:13-22 The required punishment: "I ... will blow on you with the fire of my wrath"
22:23-31 Corruption of all levels of society: "prophets ... priests ... princes ... people"
23:1-49 An Allegory: two whoring sisters – Oholah (Samaria) and Oholibah (Jerusalem)
24:1-14 The siege of Jerusalem: "I will not spare; I will not relent;"
24:15-27 Death of Ezekiel's wife: "I will profane ... the delight of your eyes ... the yearning of your heart"

7. Prophecies Concerning the Nations

25:1-7 Ammon: "you have ... rejoiced with malice ... against the land of Israel"
25:8-14 Moab and Edom: "... said the house of Judah is like all other nations"
25:15-17 Philistia: "... acted revengefully and took vengeance with malice"
26:1-21 Tyre: "I will bring against Tyre ... Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon"
27:1-36 A lamentation over Tyre: "merchant of the peoples to many coastlands"
28:1-10 The prince of Tyre: "your heart is proud, and you have said 'I am a god'"
28:11-19 A lamentation over the King of Tyre: "you corrupted your wisdom"
28:20-23 Sidon: "I am against you, O Sidon"
28:24-26 New Israel: "there shall be no more ... a thorn to hurt them among all their neighbours"
29:1-16 Pharaoh: "shall never again be the reliance of the house of Israel"
29:17-21 Nebuchadnezzar: "I will give the land of Egypt ... he shall carry off its wealth"
30:1-19 The day of YHWH: "a time of doom for the nations, a sword shall come upon Egypt"

30:20-26 Pharaoh: "I will break the arms of Pharaoh ... when I put a sword in the hand of the king of Babylon"

31:1-18 Pharaoh: "Whom are you like in your greatness ... Assyria was a mighty cedar"

32:1-16 A lamentation over Pharaoh: "I will cast you to the ground"

32:17-32 The destroyed nations: "Egypt, Assyria, Elam, Meshech-Tubal, Edom, Sidon"

8. After the Fall of Jerusalem

33:1-20 The Role of the Watchman: the distinction between the "wicked" and the "righteous"

33:21-22 The messenger arrives: "the city has been struck down ... I was no longer mute"

33:23-29 Fate of those remaining in the land: "I will make the land a desolation"

33:30-33 Ezekiel's word to the people: "they hear what you say, but they will not do it"

34:1-10 The shepherds of Israel: "should not the shepherds feed the sheep?"

34:11-24 The Good Shepherd: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep"; see also Jr23:1-4, Jh10:1-18

34:25-31 The New Covenant: "I will make with them a covenant of peace"

35:1-15 The final destruction of Edom: "because you cherished perpetual enmity"

36:1-15 New Israel: "... yield your fruit to my people Israel, for they will soon be home"

36:16-23 The example nation: "when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes"

36:24-32 The New Covenant: "I will put my spirit within you"

36:33-38 The World Tomorrow: "the nations ... shall know that I am YHWH"

9. Eschatology

37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones: "I will ... raise you from your graves, O my people"

37:15-28 Symbolic action: "the two sticks" – "the nations will know that I am YHWH"

38:1-13 Mustering Gog and his horde: "you will devise an evil scheme"; see Rv20:7-9

38:14-23 The attack on 'my people Israel': "I will ... make myself known in the eyes of many nations"

39:1-8 Death of Gog and his horde: "I will not let my name be profaned any more"

39:9-20 Aftermath of the battle: "... birds ... and beasts ... assemble ... to the sacrificial feast"

39:21-29 The example nation: "the nations shall know ... when I pour my spirit on the house of Israel"

10. The Second Temple Vision

40:1-4 The setting: "look ... hear ... set your heart ... declare all that you see"

40:5-27 The outer court of the Temple: accessible by gates to east, north, and south

40:28-49 The inner court of the Temple: similarly, three gates, and chambers for offerings and priests

41:1-26 The inner temple: two chambers, like the Tabernacle, the innermost "the Most Holy Place"

42:1-20 The court chambers: for the use of the priests

43:1-12 The glory of YHWH fills the temple: "like the vision I had seen"

43:13-27 The altar: "you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it"

44:1-3 The outer east gate: "this gate shall remain shut"

44:4-8 The north gate: "mark well the entrance to the temple and all the exits"

44:9-14 Duties of Levites: "they shall stand before the people ... not come near to me"

44:15-31 Duties of priests: "minister at the gates of the inner court"

45:1-8 The holy district: "the holy portion ... for the priests"

45:9-25 Required offerings: "at the feasts, the new moons, and the Sabbaths"

46:1-8 The east gate of the inner court: "on the day of the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on ... the New Moon"

46:9-24 Instructions for the people: "when the people of the land come before YHWH"

47:1-12 The water from the Temple: "this water ... flows into the sea, the water will become fresh"

47:13-23, 48:1-29 Division of the land: "you shall divide this land ... according to the tribes of Israel"

48:30-35 The gates of the city: "the name of the city ... 'YHWH is there'"