

**LESSON 7**  
**LIVING WITH THE PROPHETS**  
**(Ezekiel)**

Ezekiel lived out his prophetic career among the exiles of Babylon. He belonged to the priestly line and was married (24:15-24). Whether he had children, we are not told. He was 30 at the age of his first vision. The ages of 30 and 50 mark the span of active service for a priest (Num. 4). The date of his first vision occurs around 593 BC, five years after the second group of exiles was deported to Babylon. The last dated oracle occurs in 571 BC. The book is minimally a trifold, 1-24, 25-32, and 33-48. Some make a fourfold division by making 33-48 equal to 33-39 and 40-48. The oracles against the nations occur in 25-39, the restored temple, 40-48.

Ezekiel himself had been exiled to Babylon in 597 BC, while Daniel was exiled in 605 BC. He appears to have familiarity with the prophecies of Jeremiah. His visions center around the glory of God and the temple. A strong aspect of his message is that God is going to vindicate His holy name, and the nations will know that He is YHVH (36:22-23). So, he calls out, “why will you die, O house of Israel. Turn and live” (18:31-32).

As a voice, he stands at the turning point of history, both now and in the future. There is still time for Judah to repent. His visions of glory and the battles to come, will be referred to many times in the book of Revelation. Walk with him as he takes you from heaven to earth, to the battle of all battles, to a new Jerusalem.

**I. EZEKIEL SAW THE GLORY—1:1-3:28**

- A. It came as storm wind from the north, a great cloud with flashing fire (1:4; cf. Exod. 19:16-20)
- B. Up close it was revealed to be a throne chariot (1:5-25), with a throne high up above the expanse, one like of the appearance of a man upon it (1:26)
- C. His appearance from His loins and up was like glowing metal and from His loins downward, something like a fire, with a radiance around Him (1:27-28)
- D. Given a scroll to eat, Ezekiel was commissioned to speak to the exiles, a watchman to the house of Israel (3:17)

**II. JERUSALEM, THE CENTER OF THE NATIONS—5:5-17; 6:8; 7:27**

- A. She has rebelled more wickedly than the nations (6)
- B. So, God will execute judgments upon her in the sight of all the nations, causing the fathers to eat their sons (8-10)
- C. The issue, Israel has defiled YHVH's sanctuary (mikdosh), His holy place with their detestable idols (11)
- D. So, God will make them a desolation and a reproach among the nations (14)
- E. They will become a reproach, a reviling, a warning and an object of horror to the surrounding nations (15)
- F. Only a remnant, who have escaped the sword among the nations, will remain (6:8)
- G. In proportion to their conduct, YHVH will deal with them (7:27)

**III. JERUSALEM'S CONDUCT REVEALED—8:1-18****IV. ONLY A REMNANT WILL BE MARKED ON THEIR FOREHEAD FOR PROTECTION—9:1-11, \*4 (see Rev. 6)****V. COALS OF FIRE AND THE DEPARTING OF THE GLORY—10:1-22, \*2; 11:22-25**

- A. The glory goes up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple (4)
- B. The temple is filled with the cloud and the court is filled with the brightness of the glory of YHVH (4)
- C. The glory departs from the threshold and stands over the cherubim
- D. Then the cherubim departed and stood over the east gate, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them from above (18)
- E. The Spirit then lifts Ezekiel up and brings him to the east gate, and Ezekiel sees the men who devise iniquity and why the glory has departed (11:1ff.)
- F. Then the glory of YHVH goes up from the midst of the city, and stands over the mountain which is east of the city (the Mt. of Olives)

**VI. THE PROMISES TO THE EXILED—11:14-25; 16:60; 20:33-44**

- A. I will gather you out of the countries where I banished you (17)
- B. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you (19)
- C. You will be My people and I your God (20)
- D. But to the idolators, I will bring your conduct on your own head (21)
- E. Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you (16:60)
- F. With a mighty hand and wrath poured out, I will be king over you (20:33)
- G. I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there enter into judgment with you (20:35)
- H. There I will purge from you the rebels (20:37)
- I. And on My holy mountain the whole house of Israel will serve Me (20:39-44)

**VII. THE BLOODY CITY—Jerusalem's iniquity is revealed (21-23)****VIII. THE DAY TO BE REMEMBERED—Babylon lays siege to the bloody city (24)****I. THE PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS—25-32**

- A. Ammon
- B. Moab/Seir
- C. Edom
- D. Philistines
- E. Tyre (Lamentation/the Leader cursed (26-28:18)
- F. Sidon
- G. Pharaoh (seven oracles, 29-32)

- H. A parenthesis—the Day of YHVH against: (30:1-5)
1. Egypt
  2. Ethiopia (Cush)
  3. Put
  4. Lud
  5. All Arabia
  6. People of the land
- II. THE CITY IS SMITTEN**—33:1-35:15; \*33:21
- A. But I will deliver My flock (34:20-22)
  - B. And I will be their God and My Servant David will be prince among them (34:23-24)
  - C. I will make a covenant of peace with them, and they will no longer be prey to the nations (34:25-31)
- III. A PROPHECY TO MT. SEIR AND THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL**—35-36
- A. Because of everlasting enmity, you, Mt Seir, will become a desolation (35)
  - B. But you, O mountain of Israel, you will put forth branches and bear fruit (36:8-15)
  - C. Israel, you have been scattered for the blood you shed, but I will restore you out of compassion for My holy name (36:16-24; see Manasseh, 2 Kgs. 21:1-18, \*16)
    1. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you (36:25)
    2. I will give you a new heart (36:26)
    3. I will put My Spirit within you (36:27)
    4. You will live in the land (36:28-32)
    5. Your cities will be inhabited (36:33-38)
- IV. A VALLEY OF DRY BONES**—can these bones live again (37)
- A. These are the aftermath of judgment and death (1-2)
  - B. So, prophesy to the bones (3-6)
  - C. Life comes to the bones (7-10)
  - D. They are the whole house of Israel (11-14)
  - E. Israel and Judah will be one nation (15-25)
  - F. My servant David will be king over them (24)
  - G. I will make a covenant of peace, an everlasting covenant (25-26)
  - H. I will set My sanctuary in their midst (26)
  - I. The nations will know I am YHVH, who sanctifies Israel, when I set My sanctuary in their midst (27-29)
- V. GOG, OF THE LAND OF MAGOG, CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH AND TUBAL**—God's latter-day enemy (38-39)
- A. In rabbinic literature and the Targums (Aramaic translations and commentary), Gog and Magog are often seen as leaders of a great attack on Israel in a future messianic age

- B. Magog is often viewed as representing the Scythian people (Antiquities 1.123), who ruled regions of Asia, north of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, i.e., lower Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and who conquered peoples east and south of the Black Sea, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey (see map next below)



- C. In the NT they are the nations lead by Satan to attack Jerusalem at the end of the 1,000 years (Rev. 20:8)
- D. Gog's collaborators are:
1. Persia
  2. Ethiopia (Cush)
  3. Put (Libya)
  4. Gomer
  5. Beth-togarmah—from the remote parts of the north
- E. They will be summoned in the latter days, after Israel has been regathered and is living securely in the land (38:8), to plunder and capture spoil (38:10-13)
- F. This will happen in the last days so that the nations may know Me, that I shall be sanctified (38:14-16)
- G. I spoke of Gog by the former prophets, in the former days (38:17)
- H. In that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel and all men on the earth will shake at My presence (38:18-20)
- I. There, I shall enter into judgment with you, O Gog, and be sanctified in the sight of many nations (38:21-23)
- J. I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore (39:1-8)
- K. The breadth of the battle will be vast (39:1-20)
- L. And I will set my glory among the nation (39:21-24)
- M. I will restore the fortunes of Jacob (39:25-29)

**VI. THE CITY OF GOD AND THE RETURN OF THE GLORY—40:48; 43:1-9**

- A. They will be ruled by their king (44:3; 46:16-18)
- B. The appointed feasts and cult will be restored (45:13-46:24)
- C. The twelve tribes will be united in their homeland around the temple (48)
- D. Foreigners will be settled and accepted before them (47:22-23)

