

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

Ezekiel

2

Introduction to Ezekiel

- Title: "Ezekiel" ("strengthened by God")
- Date: 593 B.C. (1:2) to 571 B.C. (29:17)
- First recipients of Ezekiel's prophecies: Exiles in Babylon

3

Historical/Theological Themes

- The God of Glory (chpts 1, 8-11)
- “They will know that I am YHWH” (73x)
 - Israel through God’s Judgment
 - Israel through God’s restoration
 - Nations through God’s Hand
- “Son of Man”—93x
 - Always refers to Ezekiel
 - Reflects Semitic concept of “son of” = “characterized by”
 - Contrasts the glory of God with the lack of glory of man

4

Historical/Theological Themes

- The House of Israel—83x
 - Reunification of House of Israel
 - Only five references to Judah
- Temple
 - As it IS, then WAS, and WILL BE
- Covenant
- The Spirit
 - Spirit enters into Ezekiel, moves and motivates him

5

Historical/Theological Themes

- Summaries of Israel, Judah, Jerusalem histories (16:1-52; 20:1-32; 23:1-49)
- Prophecies of Restoration (6:8-10; 11:14-21; 16:53-63; 17:22-24; 20:33-44; 33:21-48:35)

6

Purpose

The fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple were necessary measures for the God of glory to employ to correct His disobedient people; however, in the future, YHWH will restore a repentant remnant of His people to the Land and will establish them there with a new temple.

7

Literary Structure

- I. Judgment of Jerusalem (1-24) (Wrath)
- II. Judgment of Gentiles (25-32) (Wrath)
- III. Restoration of Israel (33-48) (Restoration)

8

Interpretive Issues

- The nature of the sacrifices restored during the Millennial Kingdom
 - Symbolic?
 - Literal
 - Memorials (43:15-16)?
 - Efficacious (effective) for Theocratic harmony? (43:20, 26; 45:15, 17, 20)?
 - Practical outworking of the Priestly Covenant (Num 25:12 - 13)?
 - NO clear answer...what we do know: Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for sin for all time AND God will reinstitute sacrifices in Millennium so that Israel can enjoy the benefits of the theocratic nation

9

Interpretive Issues

- Identity of David (34:23-24; 37:24-25)
 - Resurrected David?
 - Emphasizes that "David" must mean "David"
 - Messiah, the Greater David
 - A throne name as the ultimate Davidic King
- Identity of the Prince (44:3; 45:22; 46:16 - 18)
 - The Messiah?
 - Resurrected David?
 - A leader of Israel under the Messiah?

10

Interpretive Issues

- Star of Bethlehem
 - Glory of God leaves and departs to the East
 - Glory of God returns from the East (43:2)
 - Star of Bethlehem could be a partial, shadowed fulfillment as "wise men from the east came to Jerusalem" (Matt 2:1)

11

Key Passage

"I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."
(Ezekiel 36:24-27, ESV)

12