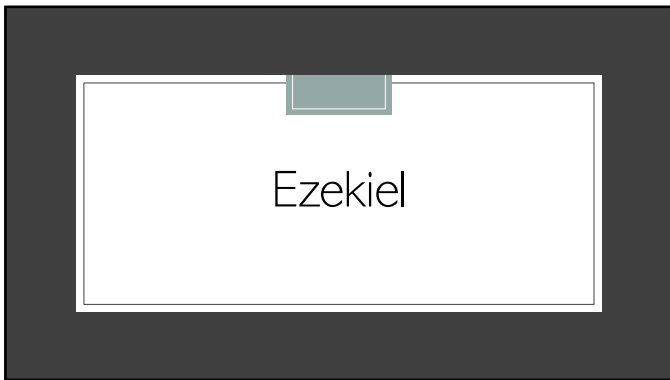


1



2



3

Introduction to Ezekiel

Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Yichezkel* (יְחֶזְקֵאל); “May God strengthen”; 3:8–9, 14; cf. 2:4; 3:7)
- ✓ Greek = *Ezekiel* (ΙΕΖΕΚΙΗΛ; “Ezekiel”)

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Introduction to Ezekiel

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Ezekiel, the son of Buzi (1:3)
- ✓ Priest, like Jeremiah

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Remnant of Judah and the exiles in Babylon

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Introduction to Ezekiel

WHEN

- ✓ Ezekiel’s ministry begins after the second wave of exile (597 BC) in 593 BC, but before the third wave of exile (586 BC)
- ✓ Probably composed and compiled shortly after his final prophecy in 571 BC.
- ✓ 15+ years after the third wave exile
- ✓ Dates of the Events of the book: 593 BC (after the second wave of exile; 1:2) to 571 BC (during Ezekiel’s final period of prophecy; 29:17)
- ✓ 30 Years Old. His wife dies when Ezekiel is 35 or 36.

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Introduction to Ezekiel

WHERE

- ✓ By or near the River Chebar in the region Nippur or Tel Abib
- ✓ Jewish exiles dwelt there
- ✓ Question on their minds—Does God care for us? Will we ever have access to Him again?
- ✓ Ezekiel is taken to Jerusalem in a vision

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Introduction to Ezekiel

WHY

To encourage the exiles of Israel that—though God has distanced His presence from them—His presence is not limited to Jerusalem, but after He is finished judging His people and the nations, He will reestablish His presence among them in a more personal way than they ever could have known, culminating in a future kingdom and temple in which the Spirit of God will dwell in and among every person.

8

Introduction to Ezekiel

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Mighty, Might, Be Mighty (Ezekiel's name; 2:4, 7, 8 (2x), 9, 14; 7:13; 20:33, 34; 27:27; 30:21, 22, 24, 25; 34:4 (2x), 16 (2x))
- ✓ Son of Man (2:1, 3, 6, 8; 3:1, 3, 4, 10, 17, 25; 4:1, 16; 5:1; 6:2; 7:2; 8:5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 17; 11:2, 4, 15, etc.)
 - ❖ Always Ezekiel
 - ❖ A phrase of identity primarily (also characteristic)
 - ❖ Man distinct from the divine

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Introduction to Ezekiel

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Spirit (1:4, 12, 20 (3x), 21; 2:2; 3:12, 14 (2x), 24; 5:2, 10, 12; 8:3; 10:17; 11:1, 5 (2x), 19, 24 (2x); 12:14; 13:3, 11, 13; 18:31; 19:12; 20:32; 27:26; 36:26, 27; 37:1, 5, 6, 8, 9 (3x), 10, 14; 39:29; 42:16, 17, 18, 19, 20; 43:5)
- ✓ Glory (1:28; 3:5, 6, 12, 23 (2x); 8:4; 9:3; 10:4 (2x), 18, 19; 11:22, 23; 27:25; 31:18; 39:13, 21; 43:2 (2x), 4, 5; 44:4)

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Introduction to Ezekiel

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ House of Israel (3:1, 4, 5, 7 (2x), 17; 4:3, 4, 5, 13; etc.)
 - ❖ Reunification of House of Israel
 - ❖ Judah only mentioned 5 times (e.g., 4:6)
- ✓ “Then they (you) will know that I am Yahweh” (7:4, 27; 11:10, 12; 12:15, 16, 20; 13:9, 23; 15:7; ... **34:30**; ... etc.)
 - ❖ Israel through God’s judgment
 - ❖ Israel through God’s restoration
 - ❖ Nations through God’s hand
- ✓ “I will be their God and they My people” (14:11; 34:24, **30**, 31)

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Introduction to Ezekiel

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Temple
- ✓ Presence (cf. John 4:23–24)
- ✓ Historical Accounts of Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem (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)

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Introduction to Ezekiel

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ God's Global Presence (1:1 – 11:25)
- ✓ God's Punitive Presence (12:1 – 32:32)
- ✓ God's Personal Presence (33:1 – 48:35)

Section 1 (1:1 – 11:25) is marked by the vision of the mobile chariot throne. Section 2 (12:1 – 32:32) begins a series of messages from God to Israel (and the nations) as oracles of judgement. Section 3 (33:1 – 48:35) pictures a series of prophecies and visions of God's future indwelling presence with His people. Each section contains a tribute to the theme of the book, that God longs to dwell with His people and give them a New Covenant heart (11:19–20; 14:11; 18:31; 34:24, 30–31; 36:25–28)

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