

EZEKIEL

1. The Author is Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:3)

A) He is a priest (Ezekiel 1:3)

B) His call to the office of prophet (Ezekiel 3:4-11)

> Like Isaiah, a vision of God's glory preceded Ezekiel's call (Ezekiel 1:25-28; 2:1-5)

> Ezekiel's responsibility was to speak to the people on God's behalf

 Their response to his message was not his responsibility (Ezekiel 2:5)

> Ezekiel's ministry overlaps that of Jeremiah but he is a prophet who lives among the exiles, not in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 3:10-11)

C) The hardship of his life as God's prophet

> The character and response of the people Ezekiel will minister to (Ezekiel 3:7)

> The 430 days spent lying on his side (Ezekiel 4:1-8)

> The death of his wife (Ezekiel 24:15-18)

2. The Historical Context

A) The fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian armies (Ezekiel 24:1-2)

B) Ezekiel gives a careful chronology for his ministry

> 13 time referents (Ezekiel 1:1-3; 8:1; 20:1; 24:1; 26:1; 29:1; 29:17; 30:20; 31:1; 32:1; 32:17; 33:21; 40:1)

> These dates indicate he started his ministry in 597 BC and continued until 573 B.C. - 24 years

3. The Structure of the Book

A) A Divine Outline

> The glory of God departs from the temple (Ezekiel 10:4, 18)

> The glory of God will be revealed through His judgment of Israel and the nations (Ezekiel 36:21-23)

> The glory of God will return to His temple where He will dwell forever (Ezekiel 43:1-7; 48:35)

B) A Human Outline

- > Chapters 1-24 detail the coming judgment of Jerusalem and the causes
- > Chapters 25-32 detail God's judgment upon the nations (Genesis 12:1-3)
- > Chapters 33-48 detail the future blessings for Israel

4. The Story of the Book

A) You can't read this book without being drawn into this amazing story about God and His people Israel (Ezekiel 16)

B) You can't read this book without seeing God's determined commitment to His own glory which is revealed through His faithfulness to His covenant (Ezekiel 20:1-44)

C) You can't read this book without seeing that God has a future plan for His people

- > The glory of His Name among the nations is inextricably connected to Israel (Ezek 36:16-28)
- > This is a task that only God is able to accomplish (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- > The King of God will reign over His people

The centrality of the land (Ezekiel 36:24-28; 37:12; 47:13-14)

The united kingdom and king (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

The inclusion of / delineation of the 12 tribes in God's plan (Ezekiel 47:13; 48:1-8)

5. Some Key phrases

A) Son of Man

- > Son of Adam – the title God uses to address Ezekiel

B) "The Word of the Lord" or "Thus says the Lord"

- > God's Word is needed (Ezekiel 12:21-28)

His Word – every word, will come to pass

C) "You shall know that I am the Lord" (65 times)

- > God's word and His actions reveal that He is sovereign over all of creation
- > His actions are not motivated by the worthiness of any people
- > His sovereign plan cannot be thwarted by Israel or any other nation