

BIBLE SYNTHESIS IV

(Bible Survey)

Introduction to Ezekiel

Robert Lee of London wrote, “Ezekiel is the Prophet of the Spirit, as Isaiah is the Prophet of the Son, and Jeremiah is the Prophet of the Father.” The ministry of the Spirit is most noticeable in Ezekiel. There are at least thirty five references to the Holy Spirit in the book.

1. Author:

Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi — 1:3; 24:24

- (1) He was one of the Babylonian captives deported with Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) — 1:1–3; 33:21; II Kings 24:14–15
 - Daniel was deported in 606 B.C.
 - Ezekiel in 597 B.C.
 - The final deportation was in 586 B.C.
- (2) Addressed by the LORD as “son of man” 92 times — 2:1, etc.
- (3) He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Daniel, Habakkuk, and (?) Obadiah (?)
(See #5, below)

2. Addressees:

Mostly to the rebellious house of Israel — 2:3; 3:1, 5; 33:2, 7

- (1) Generally to those in captivity — 3:11
- (2) The elders of Judah in captivity — 8:1; 11:25; 14:1, 4
- (3) The mountains and land of Israel — 6:2; 22:24
- (4) Those still living in Jerusalem and the land — 12:19; 16:3
- (5) The false prophets of Israel — 13:2
- (6) The faithless shepherds of Israel — 34:2
- (7) Gentile nations — 25:2; 27:3; 29:2; 38:2

3. Date:

From about 593 (fifth year of Jeconiah’s captivity) to about 571 B.C. — about 22 years — 1:2–3; 29:17

4. Circumstances or Purpose:

- (1) To foretell the destruction of Jerusalem and full captivity, because of iniquity — 5:8–10, 14–15; 9:8–10
- (2) To foretell preservation and eventual restoration of a remnant of all Israel — 11:16–19; 28:25–26; 37:11–12
- (3) To foretell judgment of various Gentile nations — 26:3–4; 39:1–4

- (4) To foretell revival of Davidic kingdom in the land — 34:23–24; 37:21–25
- (5) To foretell restoration of worship in the land — 44:4; 46:2–3
 [This is Millennial in nature]

5. Relationship to Other Books:

- (1) Prophecies of the whole Babylonian period (see Introduction to Jeremiah, under #5. Relationship to Other Books)
- (2) Prophecies during the exile, particularly
- 1. Obadiah (?)
 - 1. Time and place of Obadiah are somewhat uncertain — v. 12
 - 2. He prophesied judgment on Edom for treachery toward Judah — vv. 10–14
 - 2. Jeremiah (part of it) [He was IN JERUSALEM]
 - 1. Between 606 and 586 B.C.: Many prophecies, given from Jerusalem, of the fall of the city and the full captivity — 21:4–7; 24:8–10
 - 2. After 586 B.C.: Jeremiah 43–44, Jeremiah is in Egypt prophesying concerning the sins of the Jewish refugees — 43:8; 44:13
 - 3. Ezekiel [He was IN CAPTIVITY, IN THE *LAND OF BABYLON*]
 - 1. During the Babylonian captivity, prophesying in Babylon — 1:3; 3:15
 - 2. He prophesied the complete destruction and captivity, as well as of the restoration of **all** Israel — 9:8–10; 37:21–22
 - 4. Daniel [He was IN CAPTIVITY, IN THE *CITY OF BABYLON*]
 - 1. Throughout the Babylonian captivity, he prophesied from the city of Babylon — 1:3–6; 10:1
 - 2. Prophesied of the times of the Gentiles, and of Christ’s Kingdom — 2:27–45

6. Theme:

Captivity and Restoration — 11:16–20; 36:17–19, 24–28
 Judgment and Glory

7. Key Phrase:

“(T)he glory of the LORD” (or similar expression) (18 times) — 1:28; 8:4, 18; 11:23; 43:2; 44:4

8. Key Passage:

Ezek. 37:21–28

BIBLE SYNTHESIS IV
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Outline of Ezekiel

Ezekiel is the book of Captivity and Restoration (11:16–20; 36:17–19, 24–28). Here, the whole house of Israel is suffering in captivity for its sins (2:3; 3:5, 7, 11), a more complete judgment is soon to follow (5:8–12; 12:27–28), but God’s purpose is eventually to reunite all Israel (Judah and Ephraim) in restoration in the land (37:21–22), under David (Christ) in Millennial blessing (37:23–28).

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| 1. Initial Vision and Commission | —Ezek. 1 — 3 |
| (1) Vision of the four living creatures (Cherubim, 10:15, 20)
(1:4–5, 10, 15–16, 24–28) | —Ezek. 1 |
| (2) Commissioned a watchman to the house of Israel
(2:1–3; 3:17–21, 23–27) | —Ezek. 2 – 3 |
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| 2. Early Symbols and Prophecies of Judgment | —Ezek. 4 — 19 |
| (1) Actions symbolic of judgment on Jerusalem
(4:1–6, 15–17; 5:1–4, 12) | —Ezek. 4 – 5 |
| (2) Prophecies of judgment on the mountains and land of Israel
(6:2, 5, 8; 7:2, 9, 23–25) | —Ezek. 6 – 7 |
| (3) The abominations of Israel and Jerusalem
Temple (ch. 8); people (chs. 9–10); princes, etc. (chs. 11–12) lying prophets
(ch. 13); elders (14:1–11); Judah and Jerusalem (14:12 — 16:63)
(8:16; 9:8–9; 10:2; 11:1–3, 10, 16–19; 12:10–13, 22:23; 13:1–3, 16; 14:1–3,
13–14; 16:3, 15, 26, 28–30, 38–39, 60–63) | —Ezek. 8 – 16 |
| Note: Chapters 8 — 11 are visions given to Ezekiel, as seen in the land (Israel),
and told by Ezekiel to the elders of Judah, who were in captivity with him
—8:1–2a; 11:24–25. | |
| (4) The kingdom soon to be almost completely destroyed
(17:12–14; 18:30–32; 19:3–4, 8–9, 10–13) | —Ezek. 17 – 19 |
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| 3. Seven Last Messages to Jerusalem | —Ezek. 20 – 24 |
| (1) God’s overall dealings with unfaithful Israel
(20:5–6, 11, 17, 21–23, 31–34, 41:44) | —Ezek. 20:1–44 |
| (2) Parable of the forest of the south
(20:47) | —Ezek. 20:45–49 |
| (3) The sharp sword of the LORD
(21:9–10, 25–27) | —Ezek. 21 |
| (4) The sins of Israel
(22:3, 7–9, 25–29) | —Ezek. 22 |
| (5) Parable of Aholah (Samaria) and Aholibah (Jerusalem)
(23:1–4, 5, 10, 11–12, 16–18, 23–25,45) | —Ezek. 23 |

(6) Parable of the boiling pot (24:1–3, 9–11)	—Ezek. 24:1–14
(7) Sign of Ezekiel’s wife’s unmourned death (24:16–18, 21–23)	—Ezek. 24:15–27
4. Seven Prophecies Against the Nations	—Ezek. 25 — 32
(1) Against the Ammonites (25:2–3, 7)	—Ezek. 25:1–7
(2) Against Moab (25:8, 11)	—Ezek. 25:8–11
(3) Against Edom (25:14)	—Ezek. 25:12–14
(4) Against the Philistines (25:15, 17)	—Ezek. 25:15–17
(5) Against Tyre and her king (26:1–4, 7, 12; 28:12–19)	—Ezek. 26:1 — 28:19
(6) Against Zidon (Sidon) (28:21–22)	—Ezek. 28:20–26
(7) Against Egypt and her Pharaoh (29:1–3, 18–19; 30:21–24; 31:18; 32:16, 32)	—Ezek. 29 – 32
5. Seven Messages Connected with Jerusalem’s Fall	—Ezek. 33 — 39
(1) The watchman and his charges (33:7–9, 1, 20)	—Ezek. 33:1–20
(2) Destruction of Jerusalem and prophecy of restoration (33:21–22, 32–33; 34:12–13, 24, 28)	—Ezek. 33:21 – 34:32
(3) Prophecy against Mount Seir (Edom) (35:2, 9, 15)	—Ezek. 35
(4) Prophecy to the mountains of Israel (36:8, 10)	—Ezek. 36:1–15
(5) Prophecy of a new heart for Israel (36:17, 20, 23–28, 32, 36)	—Ezek. 36:16–38
(6) Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (37:7, 10, 11–14, 21–28)	—Ezek. 37
(7) Prophecy against Gog and Magog (38:2–3, 8, 11, 16–18; 39:1–4, 9, 11–12, 25–29)	—Ezek. 38 – 39
6. Vision of Worship in the Restoration	—Ezek. 40 — 48
(1) The Temple (40:17, 32; 41:1–2, 5–6; 42:20)	—Ezek. 40 – 48
(2) The Glory of the LORD (43:2, 3–4, 5, 7)	—Ezek. 43

- (3) The Prince, the priests and the offerings —Ezek. 44 – 46
 (44:1–4, 15–16; 45:17; 46:1–3)
- (4) The river and the land —Ezek. 47 – 48
 (47:1, 9, 12, 13–14; 48:29, 35)

Outline No. 2
of
Ezekiel

1. Denunciation of Judah —Ezek. 1 – 24

593 – 588 B.C. which is *before* the siege and fall of Jerusalem: This section features Ezekiel as a *watchman*. The keynote is judgment and doom. He vividly describes the sins of Judah and Samaria. By symbol, figure, and discourse, he impresses upon his people the certainty of coming judgment, and the moral necessity of that judgment upon Jerusalem. He *combats delusion, deception* and the *false hopes* of the people.

- (1) Prophet’s Call and Commission —Ezek. 1 – 3
- (2) Prophecies of approaching judgment —Ezek. 4 – 7
 –1. Symbolically presented —chs. 4 – 5
 –2. Plainly predicted —chs. 6 – 7
- (3) Moral necessity for judgment —Ezek. 8 – 11
- (4) Absolute certainty of judgment —Ezek. 12 – 19
 –1. Captivity foretold and leadership rebuked —chs. 12 – 14
 –2. Judah, fruitless and faithless, exposed —chs. 15 – 16
 –3. Overthrow described, deserved, and lamented —chs. 17 – 19
- (5) The character of Judah, the cause of judgment —Ezek. 20 – 24

2. Judgment upon Foreign Nations and Cities —Ezek. 25 – 32

This section may be regarded as a prelude to the restoration of Israel.

3. Restoration of Israel —Ezek. 33 – 48

This section covers 14 years, from 586 B.C. to 572 B.C., predictions after the siege of Jerusalem.

- (1) Predictions of new life to be bestowed —Ezek. 33 – 39
 –1. Watchmen and shepherds —chs. 33 – 34
 –2. Restoration of Israel, moral and corporate —chs. 35 – 37
 –3. Judgment against Gog and Magog —chs. 38 – 39

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| (2) Description of the New Order to be established | —Ezek. 40 – 48 |
| –1. Vision of the Temple | —40:1–43:12 |
| –2. People and the Temple | —43:13 – 46:24 |
| –3. Land and the Temple | —47 – 48 |

Note: This last section features the prophet as a *pastor*. He combats *despair*

Keynote: *Comfort and hope*

Three Scenes or Divisions in Ezekiel

- (1) Pre-siege —Ezek. 1 – 24
 Judgment against Judah (Beginning 6 years before the siege, he kept predicting the siege until it took place.
- (2) Siege —Ezek. 25 – 32
 Judgment against Judah’s enemies
- (3) Post-siege —Ezek. 33 – 48
 Judah’s restoration