

The Book of Ezekiel stands in the English Bible fourth among the Major Prophets. It ranks second in actual word count among the prophetic books (39,407 words as compared to Jeremiah's 42,659), and ranks third in size in the entire Bible. In spite of its size, this book is *one of the most neglected in the sacred library.*

James E. Smith

The Major Prophets, pg 353

Author: Ezekiel (see 1:1-3)

Date: Prophecies from 593 – 571 (at least)

- 1st dated prophecy 1:1 (593 BC)
- Last dated prophecy 29:17 (571 BC)

God in Ezekiel

- God is Supreme and Self-existent
- God is Omniscient
- God is Sovereign
- God is Holy
- God is Gracious

Who Was Ezekiel?

Priest: the son of Buzi

Exile: Taken to Babylon during the captivity of King Jehoiachin (597 BC)

Married: No mention of any children...
He loved his wife (*Desire of his eye*)

Age: Began his ministry at 30
(*assuming 1:1 refers to his age*)

How Ezekiel taught?

The first Audio/Visual Prophet

- **Saw visions**
- **Preacher of God's word**
- **Taught in parables**
- **Used symbolic activity**
- **Performed mini-plays**
- **Juxtaposed real-life events with God's teaching.**

Organization of the Book

- **Chapters 1-24**
 - Prior to the Fall of Jerusalem
 - Condemnation and Catastrophe
- **Chapters 25-32**
 - During the siege of Jerusalem
 - Oracles about foreign nations
- **Chapters 32-48**
 - After the fall of Jerusalem
 - Consolation and comfort

Prior to the Fall of Jerusalem (1-24)

5th year of captivity (1-7).

- Vision of God's chariot and His glory.
- Call and commission.
- Seven days of silence.
- Ezekiel the watchman.
- Ezekiel mute unless given words to speak.
- Symbolic siege of Jerusalem/The 430 days.
- The defiled bread.
- The symbolic haircut.
- Promise of punishment.
- The profaned temple.

6th year of captivity (8-19).

- Vision of the glory of God.
- The North Gate. Vision of abominations in the temple.
- Vision of slaughter...marking the righteous...the sad result.
- The glory of God departs from the temple.
- The East Gate. Judgment on evil rulers.
- Promise of restoration to the exiles.
- Ezekiel symbolically goes into exile.
- Words against false prophets, men and women.

6th year of captivity (8-19)(Cont.)

- Elders come to Ezekiel, exposed as idolaters.
- Noah, Daniel and Job cannot save the nation.
- Jerusalem, the useless vine.
- The bloody baby and the beautiful woman.
- God will not forget His covenant.
- Parable of the eagles.
- Judgment and the individual sinner.
- The lioness and her cubs, a lament for the princes of Israel.

7th year of captivity (20-23).

- Elders come to Ezekiel.
- God reviews the history of Israel, rebukes the elders.
- Promise of restoration.
- Symbol of the sword.
- The signpost.
- A word against Ammon.
- The sins of Israel.
- The story of Oholah and Oholibah.

9th year of captivity (24).

- The siege of Jerusalem begins.
- Parable of the boiling pot.
- Burning out the rust.
- Death of Ezekiel's wife.

**Messages concerning various nations
(25-32)**

Six nations under judgment.

- Ammon.
- Moab.
- Edom.
- Philistia.
- Tyre.
- Sidon.

Messages against Egypt

(10th, [27th], 11th, 12th years of captivity).

- 1st (29:1-16).
- 2nd (29:17-21).
- 3rd (30:1-19).
- 4th (30:20-26).
- 5th (31:1-18).
- 6th (32:1-16).
- 7th (32:17-32).

After the Fall of Jerusalem (33-48)

12th year of captivity (33-34)

- The watchman revisited.
- Word of Jerusalem's capture.
- Fulfillment of Ezek 24:25-27. Ezekiel's mouth opened.
- God's word against the shepherds of Israel.
- God will search out and restore the lost sheep.
- God will appoint his own shepherd, David.

Mount Seir and blessings for Israel (35-36).

- Against Mount Seir (Edom).
- The Mountains of Israel to be blessed
- Why God judged His people.
- Why God will restore His people

Resurrection and reunion (37).

- Valley of dry bones.
- The vision explained.
- Symbolic joining of the two sticks.
- Reunion of Judah and Israel.
- Restoration of David's kingdom.
- God will dwell with His people.

Gog and the great invasion (38-39).

- Gog called to prepare for battle.
- The great invasion.
- The invaders are destroyed.
- Aftermath.

The man with the measuring rod (40-43).

- Measuring the temple.
- God's glory fills the temple.
- Measuring the altar.
- The offerings.

The temple and the land (44-46).

- The East Gate. Reserved for God.
- The sons of Zadok will minister to God.
- Regulations regarding those who minister to God.
- God's portion of the land.
- The prince's portion.
- The prince's duty.
- The prince's offerings.
- A place for boiling the sacrifices.

A river that flows from the temple (47:1-12).

- A trickle.
- Ankle deep, knee deep, thigh deep.
- A mighty river.
- Waters of the sea to become fresh.
- A salt marsh.
- Trees along the river's edge.

Discussion about the land (47:12-48:35).

- Boundaries of the land.
- The division of the land.
- A portion for the prince.
- The city gates.

The Final Words of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 48:35 *“The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be,*
‘The LORD is there.’”