

**The Book of Ezekiel**  
**Week One: February 2, 2020**  
**Introduction/Background**  
**Answers**

- **Theme: Restoring the Spiritual Heart of the Nation.**
  - o Key Verse: **“And the slain shall fall in the midst of You, and ye shall know that I am the LORD!” (Ezekiel 6:7)**
  - o Key Point of this verse: **“Ye shall know that I am the LORD.”** This statement is found 70 times in this Book.
- **Timeline for Ezekiel’s Ministry:**
  - o 605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar takes the temple treasures to Babylon- Daniel taken Captive.
  - o 597 BC: Ezekiel taken Captive to Babylon at age 25.
  - o 593 BC: Ezekiel’s Call to the Ministry at age 30 (**Ezek. 1:3**)
  - o 592 BC: Ezekiel’s Vision of the Temple in Jerusalem (**Ezek. 8:1**)
  - o 591 BC: Ezekiel Interprets Israel’s History (**Ezek. 20:1**)
  - o 588 BC: Siege of Jerusalem Begins (**Ezek. 24:1**)
  - o 587-585BC: Ezekiel’s Message against Egypt (**Ezek. 29-32**) and Tyre (**Ezek. 26:1**)
  - o 586 BC: Jerusalem Destroyed by the Babylonian Army
  - o 585 BC: News comes to Ezekiel of Jerusalem’s Destruction (**Ezek. 33:21-22**)
  - o 573 BC: Vision of Israel’s Glorious Future (**Ezek. 40-48**)
  - o 571 BC: Ezekiel’s Message that Babylon Will Defeat Egypt (**Ezek. 29:17-20**)
- **Historical Background: The Two Kingdoms**
  - o The Northern Kingdom: Israel
    - 19 Kings Reigned 250 Years.
    - 7 Different Dynasties
    - Assyrian Captivity, 721 B.C. (No Return)
  - o The Southern Kingdom- Judah
    - 20 Kings Reigned over 370 Years
    - 1 Dynasty: The Davidic
    - Babylon Captivity, 606 BC (70 Years)
- **Ezekiel: The Man**
  - o Ezekiel’s name means **“God strengthens”** or **“God will Strengthen.”** Ezekiel is one of the three that were called the Captivity Prophets (The other two are Jeremiah and Daniel).
    - It was during the 11 year reign of Jehoakim that the first deportation took place when Daniel was taken captive. Ezekiel never mentions Jeremiah in his writings, but he does mention Daniel three times.

- Ezekiel was a **Priest**, but he **Never** served in that office because he was taken captive to Babylon during the second deportation in the reign of Jehoiachin, who was the king of Judah who followed Jehoiakim (**2 Kings 24:10-16**).
    - Ezekiel was with the captives who had been brought down to the rivers of Babylon. The captives had been placed by the great canal that came off the River Euphrates, which was several miles from Babylon itself. Ezekiel's ministry was among those people.
- **The Captivity Prophets**
  - Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel each had a particular and peculiar ministry to a certain group of people, and apparently they never came into contact with each other. From the record in the Book of Daniel you would not gather that Daniel ever visited his people in Babylon where Ezekiel was; yet he had a great concern for them and he actually defended them.
  - Though the prophet was in **Distant** Babylon, he was able to see events in Jerusalem through the **Power** of the **Spirit** of God. Ezekiel not only proclaimed God's message to the people, but he had to live the message before them.
    - Jeremiah had told them to settle down in Babylon for seventy years, but the **False Prophets** told the people that God would destroy Babylon and set the captives free (**Jer. 28-29**).
    - It was Ezekiel's **Task** to tell the people that God **Would** destroy Jerusalem, **Not** Babylon, but that there would one day be a glorious **Restoration** of the people and a rebuilding of the temple.
- **Strange Similes**
  - He shuts himself up in His home.
  - He binds himself.
  - He is struck dumb.
  - He was to lie on his right and his left sides for a total of **430** days.
  - He ate bread that was prepared in an **Unclean** manner.
  - He shaved his head and beard, which was considered a shame in his particular calling.
- **Organization of Ezekiel's Book:**
  - His Book may also be divided into three sections, following the prophet's call in **Ezekiel 1-3:**
    - God's Judgment on **Jerusalem**: **Chapters 4-24**
    - God's Judgment on the **Surrounding** Nations: **Chapters 25-32**
    - God's Restoration of the Jews in the **Kingdom**: **Chapters 33-48**
      - The Valley of Dry Bones: **Chapters 36-37**
      - Gog and Magog: **Chapters 38-39**
      - The Millennium: **Chapters 40-48**



- **Chapters 1-24:** These were given **Before** the siege of Jerusalem
  - **Chapters 25-32:** These were given **During** the siege.
  - **Chapters 33-48:** These were given **After** the siege.
- **Sequencing of the Book of Ezekiel**
- Ezekiel's Call to **Prophecy (1:1-3:15)**.
  - Symbolic predictions of Jerusalem's destruction **(3:16-7:27)**.
  - 14 Months later: a Vision of the temple **Polluted** by Tammuz or Adonis worship; God's consequent scattering of fire over the city and forsaking of the temple to reveal Himself to an inquiring people in exile; and, happier and purer times to follow **(8:1-11:25)**.
  - **Exposure** of the particular sins prevalent in the priests, prophets, and princes **(12:1-19:14)**.
  - A year later: the Warning of judgment for national guilt repeated with greater distinctions as the time drew nearer **(20:1-23:49)**.
  - Two years and five months later: the Very day on which Ezekiel speaks- the day of the beginning of the siege; Jerusalem shall be overthrown **(24:1-27)**.
  - Predictions against Muslim nations during the interval of silence towards his own people; if judgment begins at the house of God, much more will it visit the ungodly world **(25:1-32:32)**. Some of these were uttered much later than others, but they **All** began to be given after the fall of Jerusalem.
  - In the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the captivity, when the fugitives from Jerusalem had appeared in Chaldea **(33:21)**, he foretells **Better** times, the **Reestablishment** of Israel, and the **Triumph** of God's kingdom on earth over its enemies, Islam and Gog **(33:1-39:29)**.
  - After an interval of 13 years, the closing vision of the restored kingdom **(40:1-48:35)**.

