

Ezekiel

Breakdown

- The book of Ezekiel gets its name from the prophet who wrote the book. Ezekiel's name means "strengthened by God" which is very appropriate considering the things he had to go through as he presented God's messages to the people.
- Although Ezekiel lived the same time as Jeremiah, Jeremiah was correct in saying he was alone because he was God's only prophet in Jerusalem & Egypt. Ezekiel was among the Jews who were taken captive to Babylon, so his ministry took place in Babylon.

Main Points

- Due to a long series of bad political and spiritual choices, the Jews found themselves far from God and in trouble with Babylon which was the major world power of the time. All this had happened to the Jews because they had turned away from God. They were suffering the consequences of their disobedience like God had said would happen back in Deuteronomy. Ezekiel saw some incredibly sad things on the horizon for the Jews.
- But there is good news because those are not the only things Ezekiel saw. He also saw that God would render justice on the nations who had led Israel astray, would form a new covenant with His people, would lead them as a good shepherd, and would one day build a new temple in Jerusalem where His glory would return and stay forever.

Did you know?

- The book begins with Ezekiel having a vision of four living beings each with four faces, four wings and wheels with eyes. What are these living beings and what do they do?
- We often compare the Bible to food for our heart and soul, but the Bible was literal food for Ezekiel since God instructed him to eat the scroll. What did Ezekiel say it tasted like?
- You may have heard of *Ezekiel Bread* or seen it in the grocery store. The recipe for this bread was taken directly from the book of Ezekiel. Why did God tell Ezekiel to make this bread, and how did He tell him to cook it (**warning: pretty gross**)?
- God often gave Ezekiel scenarios to act out as examples for the people. One scenario involved a dirty cooking pot. What did the dirty cooking pot mean?
- The lyrics of the old spiritual song, *Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones*, were based on Ezekiel's experience visiting the valley of dry bones. What did Ezekiel see in the valley?
- Ezekiel saw a vision of a river flowing from the door of the temple of God. What was the purpose of the river and where did it flow?

Further Thought

- The central theme of Ezekiel is repeated over and over again: *God said, "You will know that I alone am the Lord."* What does it mean for us to know that God alone is Lord?
- Through Ezekiel, God promised that He would make His home among the people once again. How does that promise apply to us today?
- God had Ezekiel prophesy against shepherds who were taking care of themselves instead of caring for the sheep, declaring that God Himself would become the good shepherd. What does it mean for God to be our shepherd?