Ezekiel: The Glory of God Acknowledged on Earth

Key words: Ezekiel's vision of God, Prophecies of Judgment, Prophecies of Restoration

Key verse: 39:7, “The nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel.”

8 years of prophecies
12 years of prophecies

Jerusalem has fallen
A Hinge of History

Two Signs of the Exile to Babylon, 12
First sign - Baggage carried out through a hole in the wall, symbolizing coming exile (12:1-16)
“pack your belongings for exile and in the daytime, as they watch, ... in the evening, as they watch, go out like those who go into exile.”

Second sign - Trembling while eating his food to show fear at the coming judgment (12:17-18)
“tremble as you eat your food, shudder in fear as you drink your water. ... They will eat their food in anxiety and drink their water in despair.”

Exposing false “proverbs” of hope,
First proverb - exposing Judah’s indifference, “... what is this proverb you have in Israel: ‘The days go by and every vision comes to nothing’? Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to put an end to this proverb, they will no longer quote it ...”

Second proverb - exposing Judah’s false hope, “The vision he sees is for many years from now, and he prophesies about the distant future.” ... The Sovereign LORD says: “None of My words will be delayed any longer.” (12:21-28)
Two Messages of Judgment, 13-14

Message: The L ORD Promises to judge false prophets for their lies, (13:1-23)

Message: The L ORD will judge the elders for their idolatry, (14:1-11)

Judgment is inescapable! even if these three men—Noah, Daniel and Job—were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign L ORD. (14:12-23)

Three Parables of Israel’s apostasy,

Parable 1: Jerusalem is a “Useless Vine” 15:1-8

'Is wood ever taken from it to make anything useful? … As I have given the wood of the vine as fuel for fire, so will I treat the people living in Jerusalem."

Parable 2: Israel an “Adulterous Wife” 16:1-63

And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols. … You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!

Three Parables of Israel’s apostasy,

Parable 3: The “two eagles” 17:1-24

(Nebuchadnezzar & Pharaoh)—shows the rise of Babylon and the fall of Egypt. The kings and people of Judah that are taken to Babylon will thrive there, but those that seek the help of Egypt will perish at the hands of the Babylonians. 17:1-24

Principle of Personal Accountability, 18

What do the people mean by quoting this proverb, “The fathers ate sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

Point —The INDIVIDUAL is RESPONSIBLE!

“For every living creature belongs to me, the father as well as the son- both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.” Ezekiel 18:4

Each person will be judged for his/her own sins not for the sins of their fathers!
God’s urgent appeal to Israel (and us)
I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! (18:30–32)

Two Laments over Israel’s leaders, 19
Lament: Two “second hand lions” 19:1-9
Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim thought themselves strong, but they are actually weak and helpless. One taken to Egypt, the other taken to Babylon

Lament: Zedekiah, a “withered vine,” 19:10-14
“Take up a lament concerning the princes of Israel and say … No strong branch is left on it fit for a ruler’s scepter. …” (19:1-14)

Final messages of Judgment, 20-24
Message: A review of Israel’s sinful history from Egypt to the present, (20:1-44), with a concluding promise of restoration, (20:33-44)

Message: message of a forest fire, (20:45-49)

Sign: Coming judgment is pictured through a sharpened sword and Ezekiel's grief, (21:1-7)

Message: A sharpened sword will certainly come against the nation, (21:8-17)

But, God will restore/redeem Israel
I will accept you as fragrant incense when I bring you out from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will be proved holy through you in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the land I had sworn with uplifted hand to give to your ancestors. (20:40–42)
### Final messages of Judgment, 20-24

**Sign:** A signpost showing Babylon the way to Judah (21:18-32)

**Message:** Because of the sin of the people in the city a refining judgment will come (22:8-17)

**Parable:** As two sisters (Samaria & Jerusalem) lusted, so God will give Judah over to Babylon as He gave Israel over to Assyria (23:1-49)

**Parable:** The city of Jerusalem is in turmoil like meat in a boiling pot, (24:1-14)

### A nation lost — for lack of leaders!

Her priests do violence to My law …

Her officials are like wolves tearing at the prey

Her prophets whitewash these deeds …

The people oppress the poor and needy …

“I looked for one among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.” (22:26-31)

**Who will stand in the gap for America?**

### Ezekiel’s personal tragedy, 24

**Sign:** Ezekiel is to be silent at the death of his wife to foreshadow the loss of the people in Jerusalem with the coming judgment (24:15-27)

“Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead. …

So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. The next morning I did as I had been commanded.” (24:16-18)

### God will judge other nations too! 25-32

- Ammon, 25:1-7
- Moab, 25:8-11
- Edom, 25:12-14
- Philistia, 25:15-17
- Tyre & Sidon, 26—28, Ezekiel makes a distinction between the “prince” & the “king”
- Judgment on Egypt, 29—32
Prophecy against the City of Tyre! 26

- Many nations will come against Tyre (26:3).
- Her walls & towers will be broken down (26:4).
- The debris of the city will be removed (26:4).
- Nebuchadnezzar will attack (26:7).
- Stones & timbers thrown into the water (26:12).
- Tyre will be a bare rock and a place for spreading of nets (26:14).
- The city will not be rebuilt (26:14).

Who is the “King” of Tyre? 28

You were in Eden, the garden of God;
You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
You were on the holy mount of God,
You were blameless in your ways
You were filled with violence and you sinned
So I expelled you, O guardian cherub,
I threw you to the earth;
You have come to a horrible end …
(Hebrew is “prince” in 28:1, in 28:12 it is “king”)

Prophecies of Restoration, 33-48

The 1st step in Israel's restoration will be national renewal, therefore Israel must return to the Land, and experience redemption 33-39

Ezekiel is re-commissioned as the Watchman to focus attention on God's restoration of Israel, 33:1-33. This chapter parallels Ezekiel's call in chapter 3. Ezekiel is recommissioned to deliver a message of hope.

Prophecies of Restoration, 33-48

1. Ezekiel as the "watchman-prophet" (33).
2. Removal of false shepherds (34:1-10)
3. Return of the true shepherd 'David' (34:11-31)

"I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David,… he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. … Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD.

(34:23-24, 30)
Prophecies of Restoration, 33-48

4. Edom will be destroyed (35).
5. Israel’s future redemption promised (36)
   “they will soon come home… no longer will I make you hear the taunts of the nations …
   I will gather you from the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.
   I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Israel’s Restoration Illustrated, 37

Dry bones: the nation is now spiritually dead, but the LORD will revive/save Israel when and as they hear the Word of God and believe.

Two sticks: The LORD will bring both Israel and Judah together, they will experience salvation, and will live together under the blessings of the New Covenant. They will be one nation, united under one King, the Messiah

Ezekiel and Revelation Compared

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The future “final” mid-east war, 37-38

Who are “Gog and Magog?”

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Prophecies of Restoration, 33-48

The Millennial Restoration of Israel, 40-48
1. The Temple Restored  40-42
2. God’s Glory Returned  43:1-12
4. The Millennial Land  47-48

Challenges facing us in Ezekiel

1. How does God evaluate America today?
2. Who will “stand in the gap” for America?
3. What should we look for in our leaders?
4. What has God called and gifted me to do?
5. What gap would God have me fill at Bethel?

See you next week!

Daniel-
Prophetic light in a lion’s den!