

The Story of God: The Bible as Narrative

Act 4 – Repairing a Kingdom

Judah's Exile

Ezekiel

- * Act 1 – Scenes 1-5 = Genesis 1-11
- * Acts 2 – Scenes 1-11 = Genesis 12-I Kings 10
- * Act 3 – Divided Kingdom
- * Act 4 – Repairing a Kingdom

EZEKIEL:

Chapters 1-7 = Prophets call and Jerusalem's Destruction

Chapters 8-11 = Vision of Jerusalem's Sin's from Babylon's Perspective

Chapters 12-24 – Oracles about the sins of Israel and Jerusalem

Chapters 25-32 – Oracles Against Nations

Did anyone read chapter 16? What was your take?

Ezekiel is generally broken into 3 main sections:

1. Chapters 1-24 – Condemnation of Jerusalem for its unfaithfulness
2. Chapters 25-32 – Oracle Against Nations
3. Chapters 33-48 – Visions of Restoration and Salvation

After BRUTAL rhetoric about the fall of Jerusalem, the city falls

And we enter into a new and last section of Ezekiel's ministry

If you recall, after Ezekiel spoke, God removed his voice

Now, once again, he is allowed to speak

But this time, as God usually does with the Prophets, he will end with a hope of Salvation

- Ezekiel 33:10-11

And then in chapter 34, God has an indictment against the Shepherd Leaders of Israel

In their stead, He promises to Shepherd His people thru His Davidic Messianic King (King vs. Prince in text)

- Ezekiel 34:10-13, 15-16, 23-24

Finally, God's reputation (READ GLORY!) will be restored

- Ezekiel 36:20-22

Why is this OK? Isn't this a tad self-centered of God?

63x = "so that you will know that I am the Lord"

Mentioned in 28 of the 48 chapters

God's Glory is essential if anyone is to find life, health, happiness, contentment

When He is tarnished, no one looks to Him, and when no one looks to Him, they have no chance

- Ezekiel 36:23-28

NEW COVENANT – Key, we are still living within this time period

- Ezekiel 36:34-35

God, returning life to the Garden

God, thru this Judgment on Jerusalem and thru Exile, is a) Cleansing His people and b) Developing a New Creation

In Ezekiel's view, humanity cannot make it without a complete renewal

VALLEY OF DEAD BONES – chapter 37 – Israel prophesied to come to life

Breath of God comes upon them – feels like Genesis 2 all over again

The message = God can renew them even though they are dead in their sins

It is even Prophesied that Israel & Judah will be reunited – and under a Messianic Davidic King

He even tells them He will rebuild the Temple & Dwell with them

Dwell = miskan = term for tabernacle

There is a brief interlude in 38 & 39

There a great battle is predicted where once again God will be victorious after Israel is established

Magog, which is mentioned in Genesis 10:2, is a general grouping of Asia Minor
They will come from the North and once and for all God will defeat them so there are no more questions who is God
They will be buried in the Land, the Land will be cleansed, followed by a gruesome feast
It is similar to the Oracles Against Nations earlier and in many other Prophets books
Its is said to be predicted for “latter years” – a term for the indefinite future
Jeremiah also refers to this foe of the North
Revelation 20 speaks of a very similar battle
This is a very veiled Prophecy about a specific event in the future

Chapters 40-48 – Renewed City, Temple, and Land

The Book closes with a vision of the Future Israel
9 chapters - 20% of the Book is dedicated to this final vision
It is a PERFECT CLOSE to Ezekiel as it started with the DEPARTURE of God’s PRESENCE
Here the Presence of God is once again promised to return
2 Levels here – Realistic and Apocalyptic

Much like 8-11, Ezekiel is taken on a guided tour by an angel
The Vision is Dated in the 25th Year of the Exile = half way to a Jubilee
[Does anyone know what Jubilee is?](#)
RELEASE & RESTORATION

The very high mountain described is Mt Zion in Jerusalem
Zion is called the Naval of the Earth = Center of all History and Creation
Just HUGE CREATION OVERTONES

The New Temple is described in great detail like it was in Exodus
Once again, we have someone (Ezekiel) acting as a New Moses
An area is marked out, and within it a center parcel for the Temple
A river flows from it that rolls into the Dead Sea and makes it alive

- Ezekiel 47:1-12
- Genesis 2:10

In the Biblical Narrative rivers are the source of all life

In Ezekiel’s view, the sanctity with which the Israelites upheld the Temple was indicative of their hearts
They did not respect God, and they treated His Presence that way
In this renewed Temple, “no foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and flesh” would enter the sanctuary
And in the new Temple, the Levites are restricted to the Outer Court
They can serve, but not as Priests because of their horrible past
This is preserved for the Zadokite Priests (who are Levites)
Zadok and his descendants are credited with preserving the sanctuary when the rest of the people were sinning

- Ezekiel 44:15

With the Renewed Temple Established it is time for the Presence of God to return

- Ezekiel 43:1-5

This closes a HUGE loop

God, who once dwelled in the Tabernacle, left, and joined His Exiled People where they were

- Ezekiel 11:16

Now once again He promises His return

Temple, Land, Priests

[With all these detailed instruction that seem to take us back to Moses and the Torah, what is glaringly missing?](#)

The High Priest

And the King is called a Prince = more of a tribal chief with reduced authority

[No King, No High Priest, what gives?](#)

Chapter 34 made it clear – God is to be Shepherd or King

And as we know today, The Father has a Worthy High Priest

In Chapters 47-48, there is even a detailed Tribal Geographical allotment

[What should this remind you of?](#)

Joshua

The order of the allotment even partially follows the birth order of Jacob's sons
And listen to the Name of the City

- Ezekiel 48:35

Yahwek shamma = a play on yerushelayim

Note:

2 Audiences in Ezekiel

1. Those in Exile – need to know Jerusalem will fall, why, encouragement, restore God's name, etc.

2. The latter portion is written to those born in Exile – New Future

The first group needed to know Jerusalem would fall

This one needed to know it would be raised

New Testament Parallels:

1. Ezekiel speaks of a river flowing from the Temple to the Dead Sea, giving life (47)	1. Jesus is identified as life giving water in John 4 at the well. Also, standing at the Pool of Siloam... "If anyone is thirsty..."
2. Ezekiel saw Orchards bearing twelve harvests a year.	2. When Jesus left Samaria He told His disciples the Harvest was ripe. (John 4)
3. Ezekiel blasts the Prophets for being unwilling to stand in the gap on behalf of the people, but instead eating them alive. Ez. 22:30	3. Jesus is that Prophet.
4. Ezekiel envisioned a New Temple where God's Presence would rest forever.	4. John 1:14. Hebrews 1:3

65 references to Ezekiel in New Testament – 48 are in Revelations