

Sabbath Brothers

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes

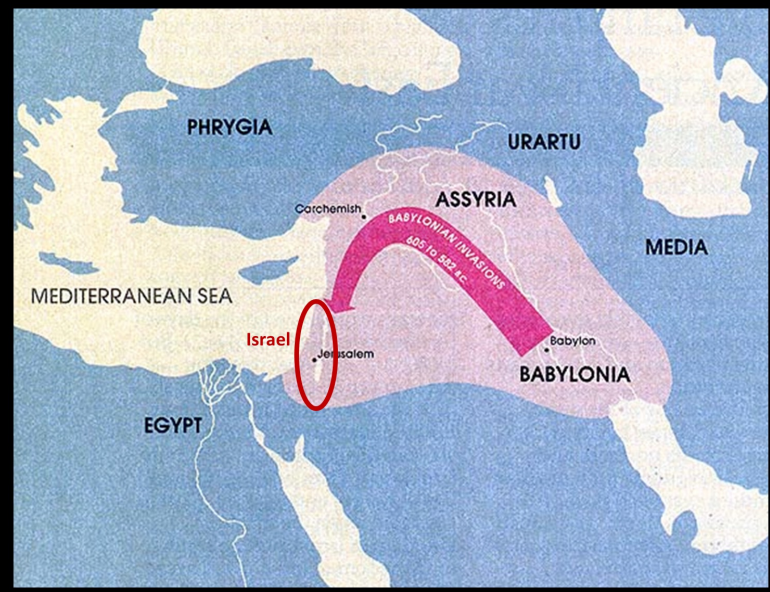
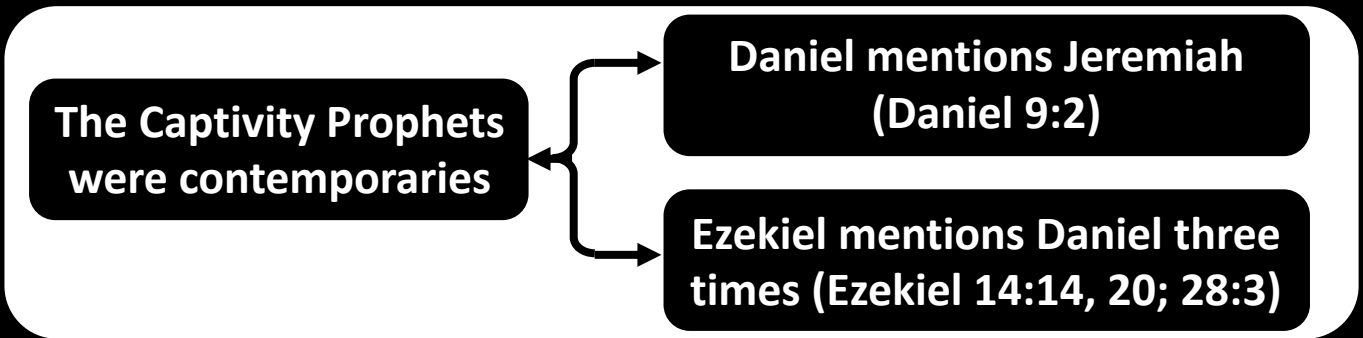
The Three “Captivity” Prophets

- **Ezekiel** ~597BC (in Babylon - Exiles)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah has been exiled in Babylon (2nd Deportation)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah taught to follow the Spirit as they endure the consequences of their sin
- **Daniel** ~605BC (in Babylon - Royalty)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah has been exiled in Babylon (1st Deportation)
 - The Babylonians encouraged to understand God’s Sovereignty over Kingdoms
- **Jeremiah** ~605BC (in Jerusalem)
 - The southern kingdom of Judah to be exiled by Babylon
 - The southern kingdom of Judah warned to repent or experience the Father’s discipline

Jewish worship in Synagogues began in Babylon since they had no Temple. The word “synagogue” means to come together.

Ezekiel (meaning “God will strengthen”) was one of the three “Captivity Prophets” (2 Kings 24:14).

Jeremiah was probably the eldest and remained in Palestine during Judah’s exile (until being taken into Egypt).



The Babylonians defeated the Assyrian Empire at the Battle of Carchemish. Babylon exiled the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 606BC, 597BC & 586BC

- 2 Egypt
 - 1 Assyria
 - 1 Babylon
 - 2 Medo-Persia
 - 3 Greece
 - 4 Rome
- Daniel’s Visions ↓

Ezekiel

**Main Theme:
“The Sovereignty & Glory of God”**



<i>Correlation of...</i>	
Ezekiel	Revelation
Ch 1	Ch 4
Ch 26 - 28	Ch 18
Ch 38 - 39	Ch 20:7 – 10
Ch 40 - 43	Ch 11:1 - 2

Ezekiel 1
Isaiah 6
Revelation 4-5

←

The Visions
of Ezekiel,
Isaiah &
John

**Ezekiel impacts Israel with
a purge of idolatrous
worship while in Babylon**

**Ezekiel ministered
as a prophet for
approximately
20 years**

Ezekiel's Orderliness

**King Zedekiah
ruled from
597 to 586BC**

Timeline of Ezekiel	
Chapters 1-7	593BC
Chapters 8-19	592BC
Chapters 20-23	591BC
Chapter 24	588BC
Chapter 25	587BC
Chapters 26-33	586BC
Chapters 34-39	585BC
Chapters 40-48	573BC

**Ezekiel is the most orderly book
of the three major prophets**

**The writings follow a
sequence with explicit dates.**

Ezekiel (meaning "God will strengthen") was one of the three "Captivity Prophets" (2 Kings 24:14).

- Jeremiah was probably the eldest and remained in Palestine during Judah's exile (until taken into Egypt).
- Daniel was exiled in the first deportation (605BC).
- Ezekiel was taken in the second deportation (597BC).

**The book of Ezekiel has an
organized structure that is well-
dated regarding events. (Ezekiel
1:1,2, 8:1, 20:1, 24:1, 26:1, 29:1,
30:20, 31:1, 32:1, 17, 33:21, 40:1)**

**The dates are in
chronological/sequential order
except for several of the prophecies
against the nations.**

The Glory of God

Ezekiel (“God Will Strengthen”)

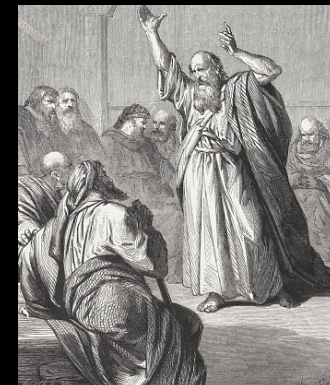
Ezekiel Gains
Credibility &
Shifts to Future

Millennial Temple

Outline of the Book of Ezekiel

Ch 1-3	The Call of Ezekiel
Ch 4-24	Prophecy of the 3 rd Siege and the Fall of Jerusalem
Ch 25-32	Prophecy of the Judgment of Nations
Ch 33-37	Prophecy of Restoration
Ch 38-39	Apocalyptic Invasions from North are Defeated
Ch 40-48	The Restored Temple and City

- Ezekiel (Ezekiel 24:24) had a profound influence on Judaism worship and is even called by some as the “Father of Judaism”
- Ezekiel became a Priest (the “Priest - Prophet”), but he was deported before the age of 30, so he never served as Priest
- Ezekiel uses “Object Lessons”
 - The Book of Ezekiel has more parables than any other book in the Old Testament (likened to the book of Matthew in the New Testament).





Ezekiel's Spiritual Walk of Object Lessons & Visions

Ezekiel
"God Will
Strengthen/Harden"

Eight Object Lessons of Ezekiel

1.	Tied up & Mute	Ezekiel 3:22-27
2.	Siege Model with Iron Plate	Ezekiel 4:1-3
3.	Lie on Sides	Ezekiel 4:4-8
4.	Diet	Ezekiel 4:9-11
5.	Excrement for Fuel	Ezekiel 4:12-14
6.	Hair cut & shave	Ezekiel 5:1-4
7.	Prepare Bags & Dig	Ezekiel 12:1-16
8.	Tremble While Eating	Ezekiel 12:17-20



Ezekiel's Primary Visions

1.	The Lord's Glorious Chariot	Ezekiel 1
2.	The Departure of God's Spirit from the Temple	Ezekiel 8-11
3.	The Valley of Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37
4.	The Millennial Kingdom	Ezekiel 40-48

Cherub are also described with a single face (Exodus 25:20; Revelation 4:7)

Vision by the Chebar River (Ezekiel 1:1-14)

¹ Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth *day* of the fourth month, **while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.**

Only 3rd person verses (1:2-3)

² (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile, ³ the word of the LORD came expressly to **Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the LORD came upon him.)**

⁴ **As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.**

⁵ Within it there were **figures resembling four living beings.**

And this was their appearance: they had human form.

⁶ **Each of them had four faces and four wings.**

⁷ Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze.

⁸ **Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, ⁹ their wings touched one another; their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward.**

¹⁰ As for the form of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.

¹¹ Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had **two touching another being, and two covering their bodies.**

¹² And each went straight forward; **wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went.**

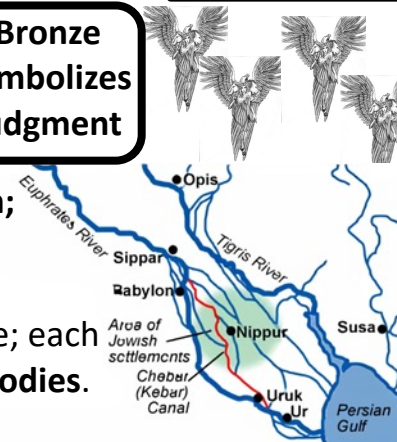
¹³ In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, **like torches darting back and forth among the living beings.** The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire.

¹⁴ **And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.**

Sequence	
1.	Faces
2.	Wings
3.	Legs
4.	Hands



Bronze symbolizes judgment



Lightning moves at 200 million miles per hour. (Luke 17:24)

At the age of 30 (possibly Ezekiel's birthday), when men entered priesthood (Numbers 4:20, 23, 39, 43, 47) and Jesus began His ministry (Luke 3:23), Ezekiel was taken into captivity and received visions from the Lord (592BC).

The term "heavens were opened" occurs in the first five books of the New Testament (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21; John 1:51; Acts 7:56).

The revelation of God would have a permanent impact on Ezekiel who never wavered (as Jeremiah might), and referenced the personal experience of the glory of God multiple times throughout his ministry (similar to Isaiah 6).

The "Chebar Canal" is called the "Great/Royal Canal" in Babylonian documents (Psalm 137:1). Some scholars believe that the Chebar (Kebur) canal connected the Euphrates to the Tigris River.

Captives of Assyria (2 Kings 17:6) and Babylonians were moved to the banks of a man-made canal ("Chebar" meaning "very thick").

Feet are interpreted as service or interaction with the world with the "straight" implying not being distracted side-to-side, but instead taking the best, direct path

The hands represent the ability to do or take action. The hands were human as if divine work being performed through mankind.

The face of the man is emphasized as the reference point for the other three faces (Ezekiel 10:14)

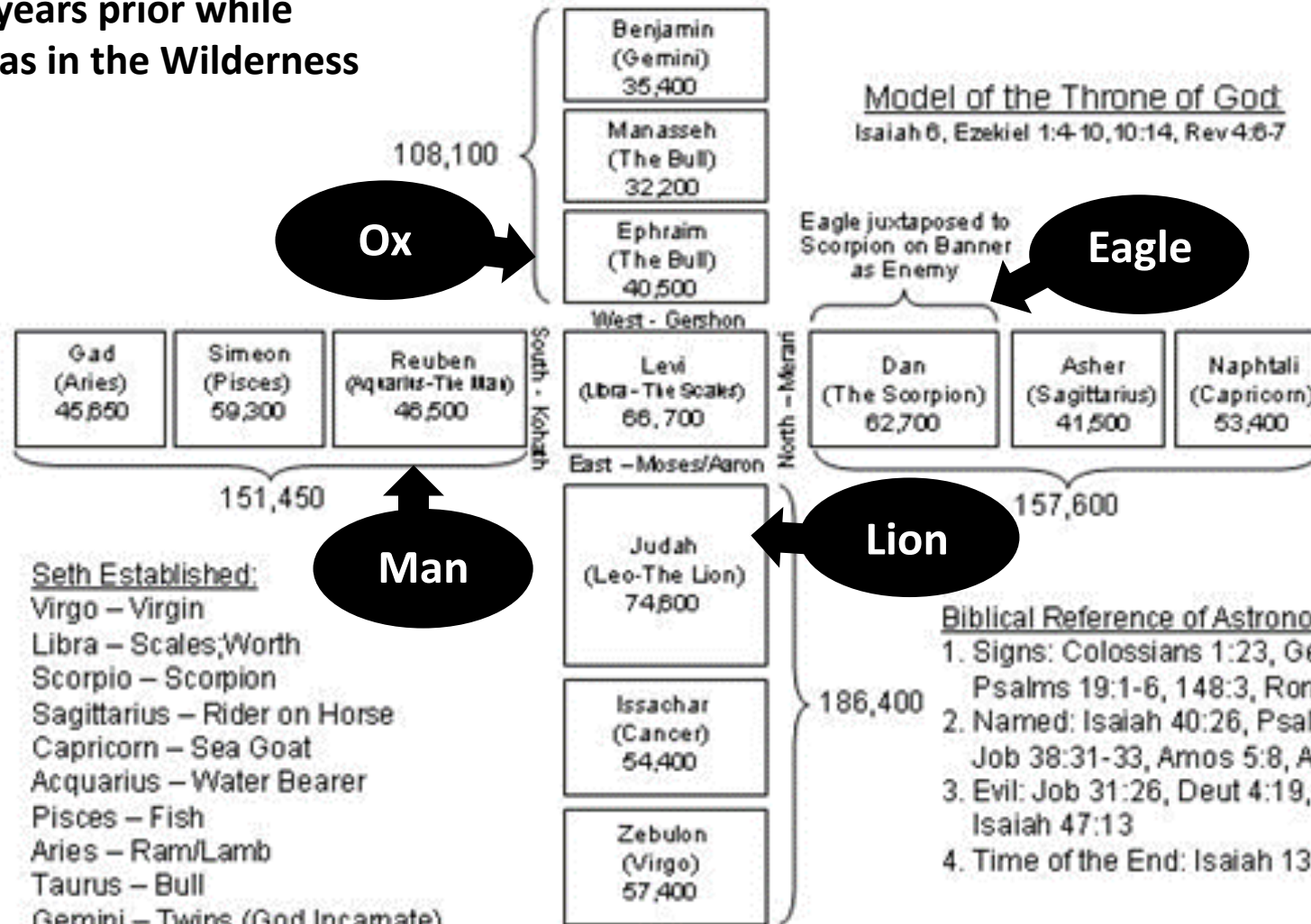
Each creature was Spirit propelled as they went straight ahead. The Hebrew term "sin" meant to deviate from the path. (Ezekiel 10:11)

Coals of fire have a purifying effect (Isaiah 6:6)

Organization of 12 Tribes of Israel

(Numbers 2 – Sign of the Cross)

500 years prior while Israel was in the Wilderness



Model of the Throne of God
Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1:4-10,10:14, Rev 4:6-7

Eagle juxtaposed to Scorpion on Banner as Enemy

Seth Established:
 Virgo – Virgin
 Libra – Scales, Worth
 Scorpio – Scorpion
 Sagittarius – Rider on Horse
 Capricorn – Sea Goat
 Aquarius – Water Bearer
 Pisces – Fish
 Aries – Ram/Lamb
 Taurus – Bull
 Gemini – Twins (God Incarnate)
 Cancer – Crab (Two Asses: Strength/Humility)
 Leo - Lion

Biblical Reference of Astronomy:
 1. Signs: Colossians 1:23, Genesis 1:14, Psalms 19:1-6, 148:3, Romans 1:18-20
 2. Named: Isaiah 40:26, Psalms 147:4, Job 38:31-33, Amos 5:8, Acts 28:11
 3. Evil: Job 31:26, Deut 4:19, Genesis 11:4, Isaiah 47:13
 4. Time of the End: Isaiah 13:10

**In Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1:4-10, 10:14; Revelation 4:6-7
(as well as the layout in Numbers 2)**

Face	Gospel	View of Christ
Messiah (Lion) <i>Lion of the Tribe of Judah</i>	Matthew To Jew Reference of OT	What He Said
Servant (Ox) <i>Worker</i>	Mark To Roman Haste/Action	What He Did
Son of Man (Man) <i>Humanity/Incarnate</i>	Luke To Greek Philosophical	What He Felt
Son of God (Eagle) <i>Deity</i>	John To Church	Who He Was

The rainbow represents God's covenant with man (Genesis 9:13-16)

The Divine Chariot (Ezekiel 1:15-28)

¹⁵ Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the earth beside the living beings, for *each* of the four of them.

¹⁶ The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship *was* like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship *being* as if one wheel were within another.

¹⁷ Whenever they moved, they moved in any of their four directions without turning as they moved.

¹⁸ As for their rims they were lofty and awesome, and the rims of all four of them were full of eyes round about.

¹⁹ Whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them.

And whenever the living beings rose from the earth, the wheels rose *also*.

²⁰ Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction. And the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings *was* in the wheels.

²¹ Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still. And whenever those rose from the earth, the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings *was* in the wheels.

²² Now over the heads of the living beings *there was* something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of crystal, spread out over their heads.

²³ Under the expanse their wings *were stretched out* straight, one toward the other; each one also had two wings covering its body on the one side and on the other.

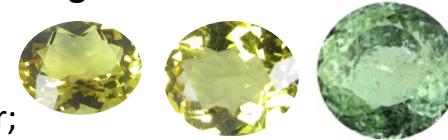
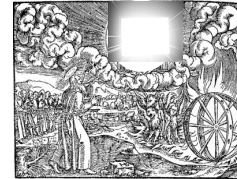
²⁴ I also heard the sound of their wings like the sound of abundant waters as they went, like the voice of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.

²⁵ And there came a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.

²⁶ Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, *was* a figure with the appearance of a man.

²⁷ Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and *there was* a radiance around Him.

²⁸ As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.



The Spirit and the wheels moved as one because the Spirit indwelt the wheels (Ezekiel 10:17)

Jesus is surrounded by the rainbow (Rev 4:3, 10:1) consisting of 7 primary colors resulting from light and water

A wheel (like a circle having neither beginning nor ending) is symbolic of what is eternal.

Ezekiel discovered that the glory of God is not constrained to a single place.

God's glory could always be with His people no matter where they traveled.

In ancient times, local false gods were typically limited to the national homeland; however, the true God is omnipresent throughout all creation.

The color of a beryl is the color of gold shaded with green; the gold represents divine glory while the green represents the color of life

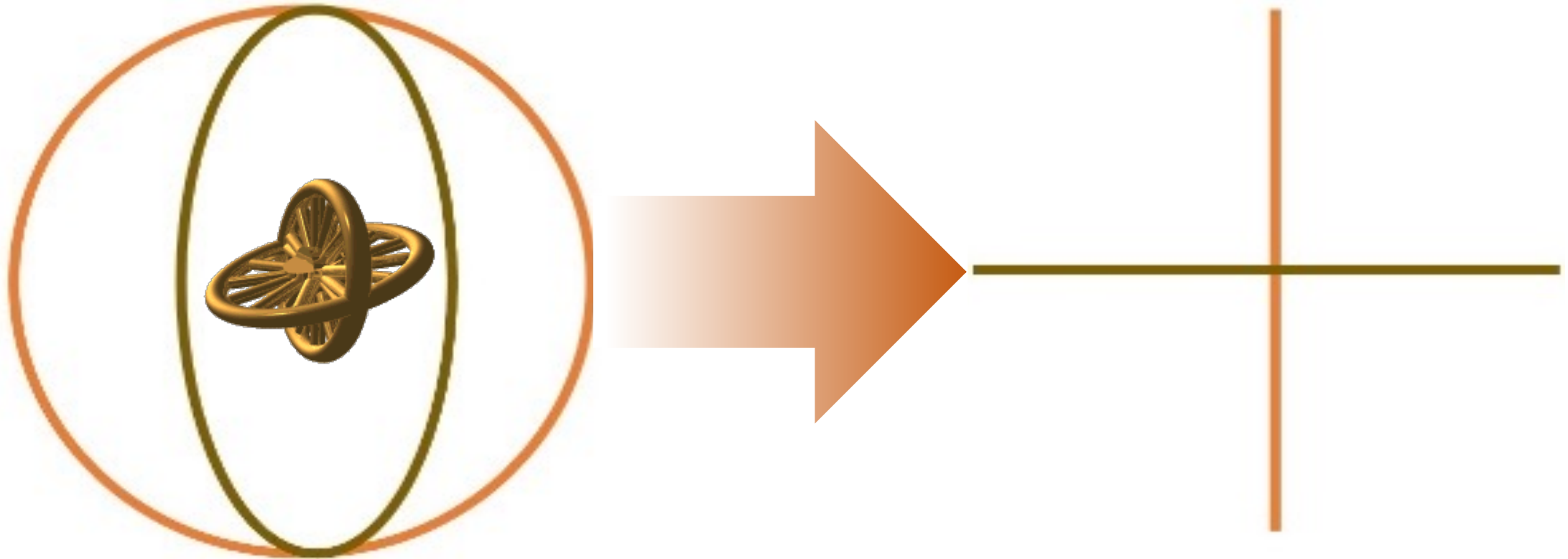
The numerous eyes (Ezekiel 10:12) represent the omnipresence of God with everything exposed to His sight (2 Chronicles 16:9)

As they flew, their wings sounded like rushing (living) waters as did the voice of God the Father (Revelation 1:15, 14:2, 19:6)

Out of the bright light of the expanse came a voice above the creatures. Whenever the creatures were not moving and going, their wings dropped; however, while the creatures were moving, their wings were fully extended.

The “Whirling Wheels”

“The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship being as if one wheel were within another...” (Ezekiel 1:16)



Side View as Wheels

Above/Below View as a Cross

The wheels were called the “whirling wheels” as they rolled and circled around.

(Isaiah 17:13); the wheels were not in passive state, but in movement.

- These were mechanisms of life and activity.
- The Hebrew word “*Haggalgal*” (הַגִּלְגָּל) can mean rolling rapidly (Ecclesiastes 12:6).

The Chariot of God

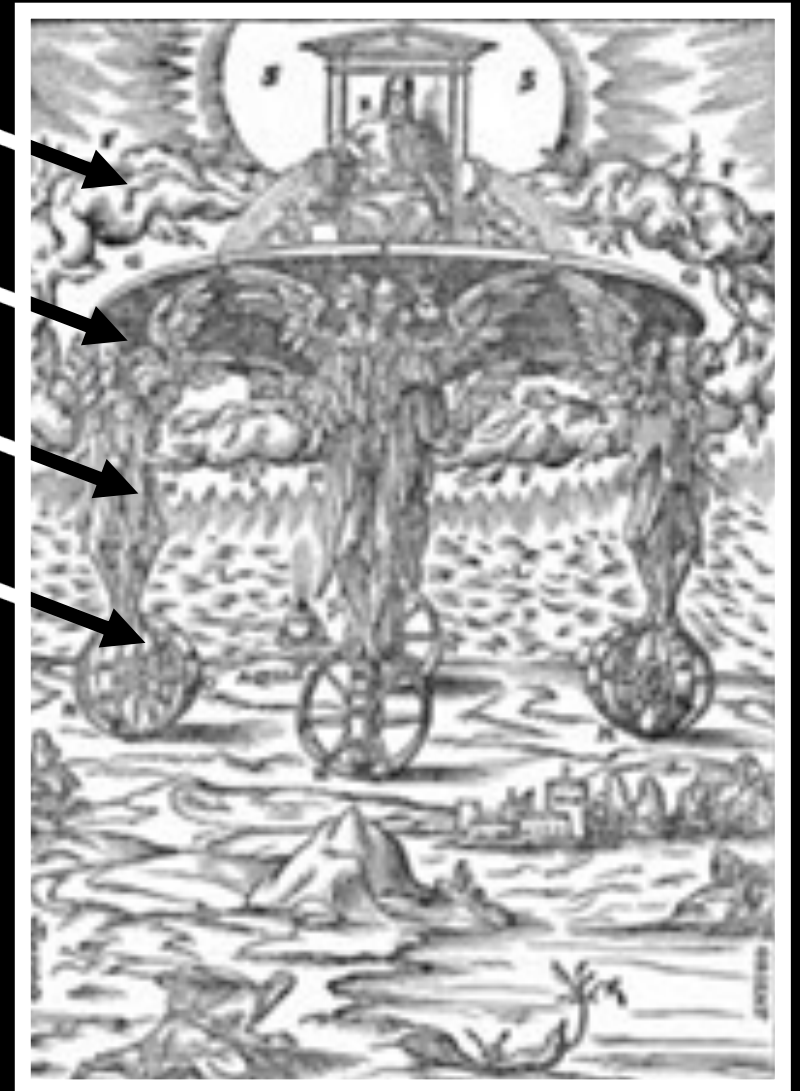


Throne
(Rainbow)

Crystal
(Shining Expanse)

Living Beings
(4 Faces)

Wheels
(Eyes)



Ezekiel 1

The Prophets Words Would Be Proved True in spite of Disbelief

The Call of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:1-10)

¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet that I may speak with you!”

² As He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; and I heard *Him* speaking to me.



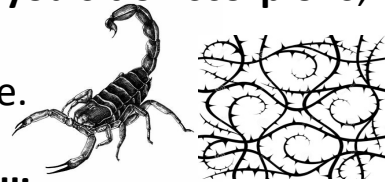
³ Then He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.

⁴ I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’

⁵ As for them, whether they listen or not—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

⁶ And you, son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions;

neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house.



⁷ But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.

⁸ “Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house.



Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.”

⁹ Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll *was* in it.

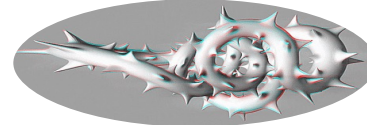


¹⁰ When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.

“Son of Man” Emphasizes Humanity:

1. representative and including all men (mankind; humanity)
2. emphasizing the contrast between God and man

The Spirit positioned Ezekiel to hear God’s Word



In the Old Testament, God’s Spirit filled men instead of permanently indwelling them as He does believers

Israel behaved as Gentiles

The Hebrew word for “rebellious people/nation” is the Hebrew word “goyim” (גוֹיִם) which is usually a contemptuous term used by the Jews for the Gentiles, but in this instance, the Spirit uses the term “nation” to characterize the Jewish community.

God’s messengers should not fear those with sin (thorns) who do harm (scorpions).

Some truths from God’s words are “hard to swallow”, but God calls His people to “eat/digest” His word (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4)

The scroll contained three items:
1. lamentations 2. mourning 3. woe

The extent of evil was so profuse that it was written front and back instead of the typical front side of the scroll. The writing on the “front and back” may infer the “full/complete” word of God

The term “Lord God” is a translation of “Adonai Yahweh” (Ezekiel 2:4)

The Hebrew word “Adonai” means “Lord”, “Owner”, “Master” or “Husband”.

The Hebrew name “Yahweh” is the covenant name for God (Exodus 3:14)

The Jews did not want to accidentally use the Lord’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11), so they chose not to even pronounce the name “Yahweh”

Instead of the name “Yahweh” Jews would use “Adonai.” They regarded the Law above a personal relationship with His special name

The name "Ezekiel" means "God will strengthen/ make harder"

The Mission of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 3:1-14)

¹ Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

² So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll.

³ He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you."

Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴ Then He said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

⁵ For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language, *but* to the house of Israel,

⁶ nor to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. But I have sent you to them who should listen to you;

⁷ yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely

the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate.

⁸ Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

⁹ Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. **Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house."**

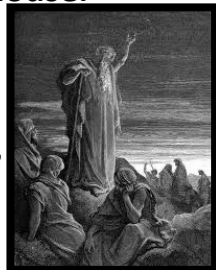
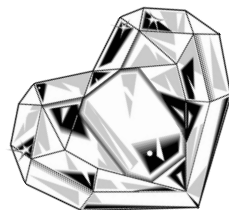
¹⁰ Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I will speak to you and listen closely.

¹¹ Go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'

¹² Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me, "Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place."

¹³ And I *heard* the sound of the wings of the living beings touching one another and the sound of the wheels beside them, even a great rumbling sound.

¹⁴ So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away; and I went embittered in the rage of my spirit, and the hand of the LORD was strong on me.



In eating the Word of God, believers should consume His word and make it a part of our lives; "you are what you eat" (Jeremiah 15:16; Revelation 10:9-10)

Ezekiel did not feed himself; he opened his mouth as a child and the Lord fed Ezekiel His word.

Until 922BC, Israel represented all of the tribes; however, after the secession, Israel represented the northern kingdom. Israel (also called Ephraim and Samaria) had been deported by the Assyrians in 722BC. Judah and Israel had been jointly unfaithful to God.

To those who walk in obedience, God's word is always invigorating and restorative (Psalm 19:10, 119:103)

Ezekiel was being sent to his own people (just as believers are called to their families) God was sending Ezekiel to those who should know God personally and have His law.

The term "unintelligible speech" is translated "heavy of lip." (Isaiah 33:19)

God's messenger must share His truths regardless of the certain rejection (2 Peter 3:9). The seed is scattered regardless of the soil. (Matthew 13:3-23)

The forehead speaks of the intellect as Ezekiel is made as stubborn as those who hear.

God encourages Ezekiel to meditate on and take His words to heart instead of just using his intellect.

The actual gem is unknown, but it is a hard particle that could be used to engrave stone.

God sends Ezekiel to the exiles with him in Babylon regardless of how they receive God's message.

The effect of God's word on Ezekiel was that he became enraged in the Spirit.

An individual's good works do not make allowance for sin.

The Watchman's Challenge (Ezekiel 3:15-21)

15 Then I came to the exiles who lived beside the river Chebar at Tel-abib, and I sat there seven days where they were living, causing consternation among them.

16 At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

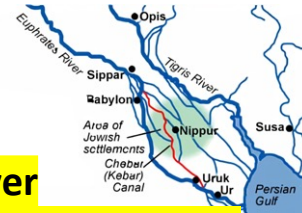
17 "Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

18 When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.

20 Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

21 However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself."



Ezekiel was overwhelmed by the sinful state of his Jewish brothers and when he sat among the exiles for seven days, the Jews had serious concern about him.

Ezekiel was selected as God's messenger and prepared for the same amount of time (seven days) that God directed Aaron to prepare for his priesthood before going among Israel (Leviticus 8:33)

The watchman's challenge (Ezekiel 33:1-9; Micah 7:4) has the objective of telling/alerting/warning, but not to be the one who saves (2 Samuel 18:24-27; 2 Kings 9:17-20) Other prophets speak of the concept of being a watchman (Isaiah 56:10; Jeremiah 6:17; Hosea 9:8)

A man can "repent" of good works just as he can "repent" of bad works; when a righteous man repents of good works, God will judge the sin being committed.

This passage speaks in regards to righteousness in following the Law of Moses (legal, not divine, standards)

The Watchman is accountable for the warning of judgment

Tel-abib

"Tel" is the Hebrew word for "mound/hill." Many towns in Israel begin with "Tel".

Abib ("Green Ears of Corn") was the first month of the Jewish calendar (Barley harvest) when the Passover was celebrated between March and April (Exodus 13:4, 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:1).

After the Jews returned from Babylon (post-captivity), the month (Abib) was called Nisan post-captivity.

Israelites begin their calendar year in the month when the barley is "Abib" (the stage before being ripe; 2-4 weeks before harvest).

The barley was "Abib" when destroyed in Egypt by the 7th plague of hail (Exodus 9:31).

The word for "month" originates from the word "moon" since (in eastern lunar calendars) a month was equivalent to one full cycle of the moon. (Ps 104:19)

Righteous acts & worship do not give a license to sin; conversely, sin does impede worship

The Object Lesson of Bondage (Ezekiel 3:22-27)

22 The hand of the LORD was on me there, and He said to me, **“Get up, go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you.”**

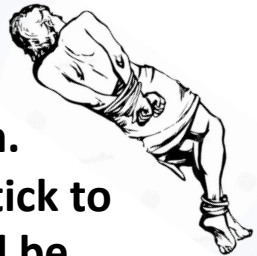
23 So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face.

24 The Spirit then entered me and made me stand on my feet, and He spoke with me and said to me, **“Go, shut yourself up in your house.**

25 As for you, son of man, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them so that you cannot go out among them.

26 Moreover, I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you will be mute and cannot be a man who rebukes them, **for they are a rebellious house.**

27 But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; **for they are a rebellious house.**



The Lord told Ezekiel to “get up” and go in order to hear the words of the Lord. The details came after the obedience.

God's glory appeared on the plains in Babylon

The Jewish people expected God's glory to limited to the Temple in Jerusalem, however, God's glory was not confined to the Holy of Holies.

Ezekiel was told to lock himself in his house, and then God foretold that the people would bind up Ezekiel with a rope.

The Spirit of God lifted Ezekiel from his humble state (Ezekiel 3:14) Repeatedly, God called His people to the wilderness before they begin their ministry. (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12; Exodus 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8)

Oddly enough, when an individual is at rest, the tongue is typically at the roof of the mouth.

God would keep Ezekiel from speaking outside of and beyond God's message.

God doesn't call His people to “figure out” what He is calling them to do.

God repeatedly has two requirements for His people:

1. That the individual searches His revealed truths (Scripture)
2. That the individual surrender to what God tells them to do

Instead of simply resolving the problems of an individual's life,

God's greater focus is:

1. The willingness of the individual to listen to the Word that God
2. The willingness of the individual to surrender to His Word.

Any time a need is realized, there is an opportunity for a calling/ministry to fulfill that need (i.e. family, neighbor, homeless, orphan, incarcerated, elderly, etc.)

Jesus quotes, *“Let him hear who hears, and let him refuse, who refuses.”* (Matthew 11:15, 13:9; Mark 4:9, Luke 8:8).

The Sin of Israel/Judah had obstructed the Relationship with God

The Object Lesson of Isolation/Siege (Ezekiel 4:1-8)

1 “Now you son of man, get yourself a brick, place it before you and inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem.

2 Then lay siege against it, build a siege wall, raise up a ramp, pitch camps and place battering rams against it all around.

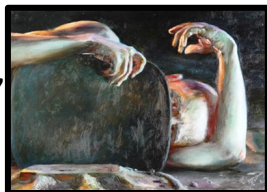


3 Then get yourself an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city, and set your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This is a sign to the house of Israel.

Israel/
390
Days

4 “As for you, lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it.

5 For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.



6 When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, *but* on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year.

40
Days
Judah

7 Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared and prophesy against it.

8 Now behold, I will put ropes on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have completed the days of your siege.



Ezekiel was to draw a picture of Jerusalem on a clay tablet, and then set siege and war against the image.

The clay was dry (without “water”) representing Jerusalem without the Spirit (Jeremiah 18-19)

Babylon would lay siege to Jerusalem (Jeremiah 32:2)

Ezekiel was to then put an iron plate between himself and Jerusalem to represent the wall of separation that the people had made between themselves and God



It was not obvious to the exiles that Jerusalem would be assaulted in 586BC; instead, the exiles were thinking about when they would be released to return home.

By lying on his side, Ezekiel was signifying that nothing would induce God to turn from the destruction of the rebellious.

The prophet may have lay on his side for several hours each day as a spectacle of what would take place.

The left was often considered the weaker side which would reference the northern kingdom of Israel that had already been exiled for over a century (since 722BC) by Assyria.

Aaron’s ancestry was the Priestly line, and the responsibilities of that office were to “bear the iniquity” as a priest for the people. (Numbers 18:23).

Jesus was the High Priest who bore the sins of the world. Hebrews 4:14-16

God judged all of Israel (as in Egypt) for 430 years (Exodus 12:40-41; Galatians 3:17) while the forty days may allude to the years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34)

After the judgment of Israel came the judgment of the southern kingdom of Judah.

Unlike the first judgment on Israel, Ezekiel should now face towards the model of Jerusalem since Jerusalem was located in the southern kingdom.

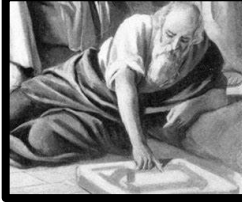
Ezekiel would lie on his right side which usually represented strength.

The Hebrew word “yamin” (יָמִינִי) is defined as the “Right Side” and also can mean “South”.

Ceremonial Purity is More Important to Ezekiel Than God

The Object Lesson of Famine/Drought (Ezekiel 4:9-17)

⁹ “But as for you, take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet and spelt, put them in one vessel and make them into bread for yourself; you shall eat it according to the number of the days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days.



¹⁰ Your food which you eat *shall be* twenty shekels a day by weight; you shall eat it from time to time.

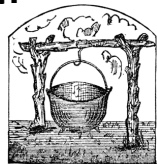
¹¹ The water you drink shall be the sixth part of a hin by measure; you shall drink it from time to time.



¹² You shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked *it* in their sight over human dung.”

¹³ Then the LORD said, “Thus will the sons of Israel eat their bread unclean among the nations where I will banish them.”

¹⁴ But I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I have never been defiled; for from my youth until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has any unclean meat ever entered my mouth.”



¹⁵ Then He said to me, “See, I will give you cow’s dung in place of human dung over which you will prepare your bread.”

¹⁶ Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror,



¹⁷ because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity.

The mixture of these six grains results in a protein that closely parallels the protein found in milk and eggs. It contains all 9 essential amino acids which is important because the body must get these from food as it cannot manufacture amino acids itself.

Fitches (“spelt”) is an inferior grain, showing that the siege/famine would force people in Jerusalem to eat virtually anything

The ability to consume such a small amount of food from time to time reflected a scarcity of food that would be unavailable every day. (Ezekiel 12:18-19)

The historian Josephus records that a shekel weighed only four Attic drachms (half an ounce), so that twenty shekels would weigh approximately ten ounces. The 10 ounces of bread per day would be barely enough to keep Ezekiel alive.

The lack of water during the siege is represented by a small ration to the sixth of a hin which could also symbolize the lack of Spiritual water (God’s Word)

During the famine, “dietary restrictions” of the Jewish people would be ignored.

Ezekiel’s Object Lesson of Studying God’s Word without the Revelation of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 4:12-15 → Ezekiel 2:8; Revelation 10:10; Jeremiah 15:16)			
Priest	Study Scripture	Analyze	Teach Others
Priest	Eat Food	Digest/Process	Deposit Excrement

Assaulting armies stopped communication and supply chains from entering or leaving the besieged cities.

The Hebrew word for “idol” is “gillul” (additional meaning of “rolling” גִּלּוּלִי) while the Hebrew word for “dung” is “galal” (additional meaning of “rolling” גָּלַל)

Ezekiel was willing to be publicly humiliated for the Lord (Ezekiel 4:1-8) while thirsting and starving himself (Ezekiel 4:9-11)

A staff is to be depended upon for support, but Jerusalem’s inhabitants could not depend on food or water to be available – the “staff” would be broken.

Ezekiel begged against defiling himself and making himself ceremonially unclean.

1/3 for each of the Three Judgments
with a Remnant Remaining

Threefold Judgment on Jerusalem (Ezekiel 5:1-12)

¹ “As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword; take and use it *as* a barber’s razor on your head and beard. Then take scales for weighing and divide the hair.

² One third you shall burn in the fire at the center of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. Then you shall take one third and strike it with the sword all around the city, and one third you shall scatter to the wind; and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.



³ Take also a few in number from them and bind them in the edges of your robes.

⁴ Take again some of them and throw them into the fire and burn them in the fire; from it a fire will spread to all the house of Israel.



⁵ “Thus says the Lord God, ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.

⁶ But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes.’

⁷ Therefore, thus says the Lord God, ‘Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you *and* have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinances, nor observed the ordinances of the nations which surround you,’

⁸ therefore, thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I, even I, am against you, and I will execute judgments among you in the sight of the nations.



⁹ And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.

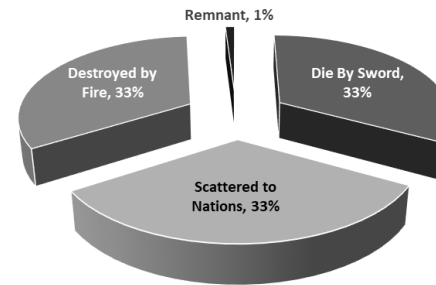
¹⁰ Therefore, fathers will eat *their* sons among you, and sons will eat their fathers; for I will execute judgments on you and scatter all your remnant to every wind.

¹¹ So as I live,’ declares the Lord God, ‘surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable idols and with all your abominations, therefore I will also withdraw, and My eye will have no pity and I will not spare.

¹² One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.

Priests were not allowed to shave their heads (Leviticus 19:27; 21:5).

Shaved heads and beards were signs of mourning and shame (Job 1:20; Isaiah 15:2; Jeremiah 48:37; 2 Samuel 10:4).



The few hairs that were saved & sewn into the hem of Ezekiel’s robe represent the remnant saved during the siege, but even a number of these would perish in fire. Nothing more is mentioned in Scripture of this hair in the hem of the robe.

After a few are saved, the final 1/3 are thrown into fire for destruction which is symbolic of death by plague or famine (Ezekiel 5:12).

God often reserved a remnant to Himself (2 Kings 25:22; Isaiah 6:13, 10:22; Jeremiah 23:3; Ezekiel 6:8, 10; 11:13; Zechariah 13:8-9)

God’s people were meant to be a light to the world, but they had misapplied their knowledge of Him

Israel had multiplied their sins more than the pagan nations around them. Israel had not even been as true to the one living God as the pagans had been to their false idols.

An obedient nation would be blessed; however, the rebellious nation of Israel would be greatly judged

God would turn Jerusalem over to the siege causing famine and fulfilling His earlier warning (Deuteronomy 28:53; Leviticus 26:29).

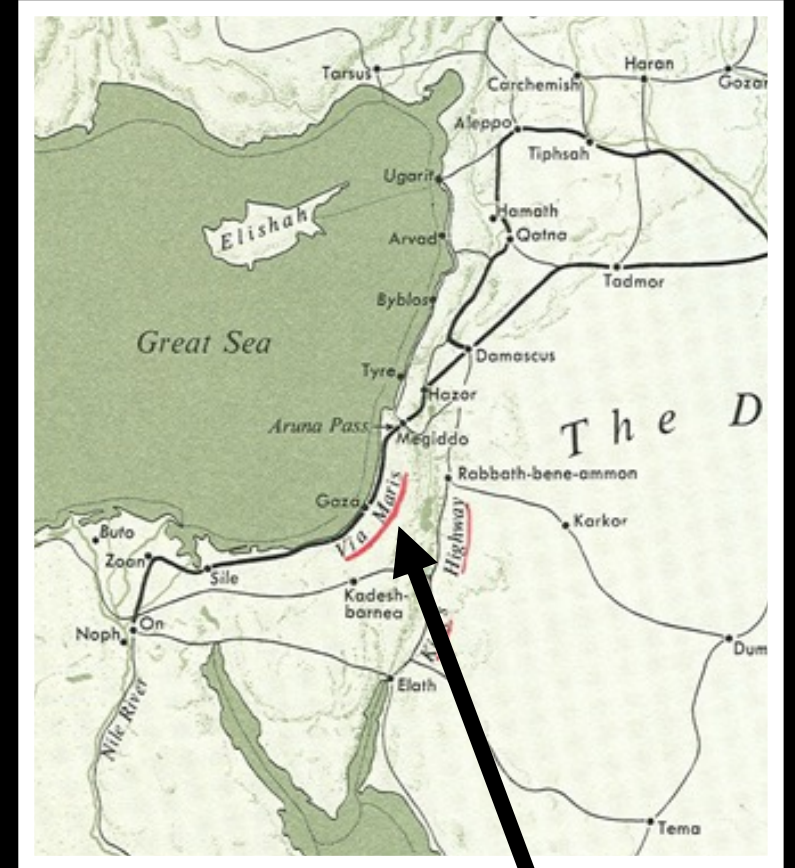
This three groupings of hair, and the terms “pestilence, famine, sword” are used together in Ezekiel seven times (Ezekiel 5:17, 6:11, 6:12, 7:15, 12:16, 14:21)

Israel: Crossroads of World Trade

“Thus says the Lord God, ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.’” Ezekiel 5:5

All of Africa and Asia Minor had access to each other only by passing through Palestine.

The literal road from the fertile crescent passed through Megiddo.



The Via Maris was a coastal, ancient trade route along the Mediterranean Sea that linked Egypt with the northern empires of Syria and Mesopotamia

Via Maris
("The Way of the Sea")
Coastal Route

“God’s Judgment Accomplished”

The Consequences of Judgment (Ezekiel 5:13)	
God	God’s People
1. God’s Anger is Spent	Will Know That He Is Lord
2. God’s Wrath is Satisfied	Will Know That He Has Spoken in His Zeal
3. God is Appeased	Will Know That He Spent His Wrath Upon Them

- *“They shall know that I am the Lord”*
- God’s People are Destroyed
- *“An object of reproach to all of the nations around you.”*

‘Thus My anger will be spent and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I will be appeased; then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken in My zeal when I have spent My wrath upon them.’ (Ezekiel 5:13)

“No Place To Hide”

No Hiding Place from God’s Judgment (Ezekiel 6:12)

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--------|
| 1. | Those Far Off... | Plague |
| 2. | Those Near... | Sword |
| 3. | Those Who Remain... | Famine |

“One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.” (Ezekiel 6:12)

The individual does not determine the truth; the individual recognizes the truth

This does not mean that people will choose to allow Him to be the Lord...
Instead, they will acknowledge the truth that He is the Lord.

The three groupings of hair, and the terms “pestilence, famine, sword” are used together in Ezekiel seven times (Ezekiel 5:17, 6:11, 6:12, 7:15, 12:16, 14:21)

God is Sovereign & Omnipotent

Recognition of Truth (Ezekiel 6:1-14)

¹ And the word of the LORD came to me saying,
² "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them
³ and say, 'Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the ravines and the valleys: "Behold, I Myself am going to bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places.

⁴ So your altars will become desolate and your incense altars will be smashed; and I will make your slain fall in front of your idols.

⁵ I will also lay the dead bodies of the sons of Israel in front of their idols; and I will scatter your bones around your altars.

⁶ In all your dwellings, cities will become waste and the high places will be desolate, that your altars may become waste and desolate, your idols may be broken and brought to an end, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be blotted out.

⁷ The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am the LORD.

⁸ "However, I will leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries.

⁹ Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive, how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations.

¹⁰ Then they will know that I am the LORD, I have not said in vain that I would inflict this disaster on them."

¹¹ "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Clap your hand, stamp your foot and say, "Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, which will fall by sword, famine and plague!

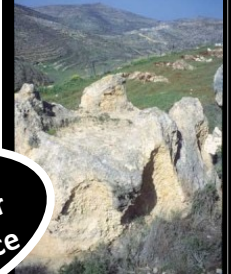
¹² He who is far off will die by the plague, and he who is near will fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged will die by the famine. Thus will I spend My wrath on them.

¹³ Then you will know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the tops of the mountains, under every green tree and under every leafy oak—the places where they offered soothing aroma to all their idols.

¹⁴ So throughout all their habitations I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land more desolate and waste than the wilderness toward Diblah, thus they will know that I am the LORD."



The term *bamah* can mean hill or cultic high place



This rock-hewn altar was carved out of limestone and was 8 feet on each side and 5 feet high. It is located about a mile from Shiloh, with four corners pointing to the four directions (Exodus 27:1-2).



"Diblah" is interpreted as "Riblah" which was the military headquarters in Syria for Egyptian and Babylonian troops

This phrase "word of the Lord" is used sixty times through Ezekiel.

Ezekiel transitions from preaching to people as he turns to the mountain locations (high places) of the idolatry (Isaiah 65:7; Jeremiah 3:6; Hosea 1:3)

Mountains traditionally represent leadership, but these were also the locations of the idolatrous worship on the high places (Leviticus 26:30; Numbers 33:52).

- Hezekiah removed the high places (2 Kings 8:14)
- Josiah did not remove the high places, but instead repurposed them to worship Yahweh (2 Chronicles 33:17)

The crushed bones and corpses would cause the high places to be defiled. God would cause a stench on the idolatrous altars instead of the pleasant smell of incense.

The term "altars" might be used for buildings of idolatrous brothels as prostitutes worked in the temples of idolatry. When the prostitutes became pregnant, their infants would be sacrificed to the false gods and the charred bones of the infant was scattered at the place of worship.

The Hebrew word for "idol" is "gillul" (additional meaning of "rolling" גִּלּוּלִי) while the Hebrew word for "dung" is "galal" (additional meaning of "rolling" גָּלַל)

The Babylonian Destruction as well as the Great tribulation

The Demise of A Nation (Ezekiel 7:14-27)

¹⁴ **They have blown the trumpet and made everything ready, but no one is going to the battle, for My wrath is against all their multitude.**

¹⁵ **The sword is outside and the plague and the famine are within. He who is in the field will die by the sword; famine and the plague will also consume those in the city.**

¹⁶ Even when their survivors escape, they will be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each over his own iniquity.

¹⁷ All hands will hang limp and all **knees will become like water.**

¹⁸ They will gird themselves with sackcloth and shuddering will overwhelm them; and **shame will be on all faces and baldness on all their heads.**

¹⁹ They will fling their silver into the streets and their gold will become an abhorrent thing; **their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD.** They cannot satisfy their appetite nor can they fill their stomachs, for their iniquity has become an occasion of stumbling.

²⁰ **They transformed the beauty of His ornaments into pride, and they made the images of their abominations and their detestable things with it; therefore I will make it an abhorrent thing to them.**

²¹ I will give it into the hands of the foreigners as plunder and to the wicked of the earth as spoil, and they will profane it.

²² I will also turn My face from them, and they will profane My secret place; then robbers will enter and profane it.

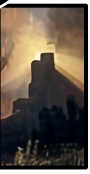
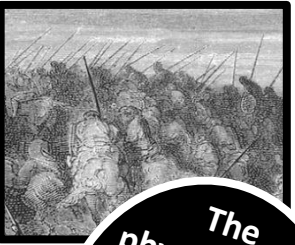
²³ **Make the chain, for the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence.**

²⁴ Therefore, I will bring the worst of the nations, and they will possess their houses. I will also make the pride of the strong ones cease, and their holy places will be profaned.

²⁵ When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there will be none.

²⁶ **Disaster will come upon disaster and rumor will be added to rumor; then they will seek a vision from a prophet, but the law will be lost from the priest and counsel from the elders.**

²⁷ The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with horror, and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. According to their conduct I will deal with them, and **by their judgments I will judge them. And they will know that I am the LORD.”**



The physical state of Israel would match their spiritual state

The "chain of events" will lead to "chains" of bondage

Whereas God's people knew Him as Jehovah-jireh (God will provide), they would now understand Him as Jehovah-makkeh (Jehovah will destroy/smite).

The warriors outside of the fortress would be slain in battle while the siege of the city would bring both famine and plague.

As doves represent peace, even the those who escape to the mountains will grieve the losses of their slain loved ones.

The population within the walls of the city would tax the resources to become inadequate to sustain the swelled population.

The literal translation of Isaiah 7:17 is that when God's wrath occurs "their knees will run with urine" (they will wet themselves)

Pride in "religious" cabarets will be the "stumbling block" to a spirit filled relationship with the true God.

Salvation will not be able to be bought. Silver is the Biblical symbol of redemption while gold is the symbol of glory; as God's people prided themselves in the show of church membership, good works, pompous gatherings – these will be seen as useless.

Holy items that Israel had profaned spiritually would be given over to pagans to demean and pollute physically.

Every Function of Society will Disappear (Ezekiel 7:26-27)	
Prophet	No Vision
Priest	No Understanding of the Law
Elder	No Counsel
King	No Joy
Prince	No Honor
Common People	No Capability
Israel Denied that this would happen (Jeremiah 18:18)	

This vision was 14 months after the first vision (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

Chapters 8-11 reference a single vision where Ezekiel is transported to Jerusalem.

Idolatries in the Temple (Ezekiel 8:1-16)

¹ It came about in the sixth year, on the fifth *day* of the sixth month, as I was sitting in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell on me there.

² Then I looked, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of a man; from His loins and downward *there was* the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal.



The elders in Babylon had been impacted by Ezekiel's object lessons and were now gathered in his home.

Fire represents judgment while bronze represents strength foretelling a powerful judgment on Judah (Revelation 1:15)

³ He stretched out the form of a hand and caught me by a lock of my head; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner *court*, where the seat of the idol of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy, was *located*

Some Sins Are Worse than Others

- ### Idolatries in the Temple
1. Idol in the North ("Altar") Gate
 2. Secret Cultic Rituals by Seventy Elders (Sanhedrin) in Outer Court
 3. Astral Worship of Heavens in Inner Court

⁴ And behold, the glory of the God of Israel *was* there, like the appearance which I saw in the plain.

⁵ Then He said to me, "Son of man, raise your eyes now toward the north." So I raised my eyes ¹

toward the north, and behold, to the north of the altar gate *was* this idol of jealousy at the entrance.

⁶ And He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations which the house of Israel are committing here, so that I would be far from My sanctuary? But yet you will see still greater abominations."

The term "abomination" means polluting/defiling something clean/holy

⁷ Then He brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, a hole in the wall.

⁸ He said to me, "Son of man, now dig through the wall." So I dug through the wall, and behold, an entrance.

⁹ And He said to me, "Go in and see the wicked abominations that they are committing here."



¹⁰ So I entered and looked, and behold, every form of creeping things and beasts *and* ² detestable things, with all the idols of the house of Israel, were carved on the wall all around.

¹¹ Standing in front of them were seventy elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them, each man with his censer in his hand and the fragrance of the cloud of incense rising.

The Adoption of the Idolatrous Practices of Nations Around Israel			
1.	Ezekiel 8:3,5	Idols	Canaanite
2.	Ezekiel 8:9-10	Depictions of half animal & man	Egyptian
3.	Ezekiel 8:14, 16	Astral Worship of the Heavens	Babylonian

¹² Then He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are committing in the dark, each man in the room of his carved images? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'"

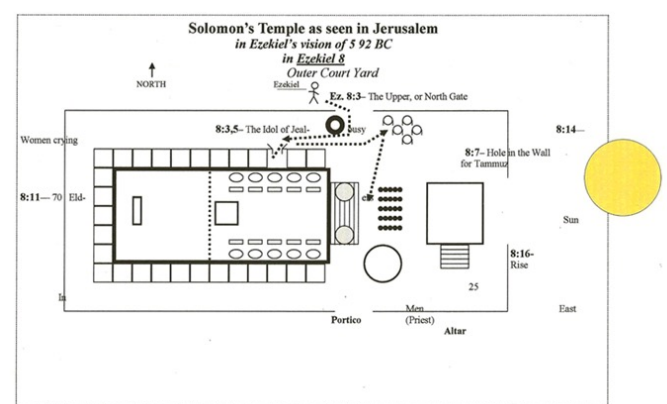
¹³ And He said to me, "Yet you will see still greater abominations which they are committing."

¹⁴ Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of the LORD's house which *was* toward the north; and behold, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. ^{3a}

Tammuz was a Babylonian god of agriculture who would age in the seasons— dying off at the end of the year & resurrect each Spring.

¹⁵ He said to me, "Do you see *this*, son of man? Yet you will see still greater abominations than these." ^{3b}

¹⁶ Then He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house. And behold, at the entrance to the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east; and they were prostrating themselves eastward toward the sun.



The Scribe & Executioners (Ezekiel 9:1-11)

¹ Then He cried out in my hearing with a loud voice saying, "Draw near, O executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."

² Behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate which faces north, each with his shattering weapon in his hand; and among them was a certain man clothed in linen with a writing case at his loins. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.



³ Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case.



⁴ The LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, *even* through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."

⁵ But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity and do not spare.



⁶ Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary." So they started with the elders who *were* before the temple.

⁷ And He said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain.

Go out!" Thus they went out and struck down *the people* in the city.

⁸ As they were striking *the people* and I *alone* was left, I fell on my face and cried out saying, "Alas, Lord GOD! Are You destroying the whole remnant of Israel by pouring out Your wrath on Jerusalem?"

⁹ Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'

¹⁰ But as for Me, My eye will have no pity nor will I spare, but I will bring their conduct upon their heads."



¹¹ Then behold, the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case reported, saying, "I have done just as You have commanded me."

God called His angelic destroyers (Exodus 12:23; 2 Samuel 24:16; 1 Chronicles 21:15; Daniel 4:13, 17, 23) to come near to Jerusalem.

The six are thought to be angels coming from the north just as Babylon would come over the fertile crescent.

The north was the location of the idol of the false god (Ezekiel 8:3) as well as the weeping women (Ezekiel 8:14).

The weapon of the angels may have been battle axes (Jeremiah 46:22; Ezekiel 26:9) or war clubs (Jeremiah 51:20)

The seventh (Jesus) in linen (purity) with a writing implement of each man's life and ultimate destination (Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12 & 15, 21:27; Ps 69:28, 139:16; Dan 12:1).

At a time when few knew how to read/write, scribes would travel with inkhorns (10 inches long x 2 inches wide) of metal/wood holding wooden pens with the ink (charcoal/gum/water) attached in the lid.

God's people should weep over sin and rebellion God's people are as evident as a mark on the forehead (Rev 7:3, 9:4, 22:4)

Hebrew letter tav at the time of Ezekiel (Photo:Hebrew)



The first time that Ezekiel cries out to the Lord about saving the remnant (Ezekiel 11:13)

God's Mark of Salvation

- Cain was also marked by the Lord (Genesis 4:15)
- The door posts were marked for salvation at Passover (Exodus 12:7)



In the original Hebrew, the mark was the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet – the Tav which represents "a mark/sign."

Modern Hebrew letter tav (Hebrew square)



- The Lifestyles of Israel & Judah Have "Great" Sin (Ezekiel 9:9)
1. The land is filled with blood – violence
 2. The city is full of perversion – licentiousness
 3. They claim God does not witness their wickedness

Judgment began with the elders/priests at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17)

The “Great” Iniquity of Judah

The Lifestyles of Israel & Judah Have “Great” Sin (Ezekiel 9:9)

1. The land is filled with blood – violence
2. The city is full of perversion – licentiousness
3. They claim God does not witness their wickedness

- No Mediator for Those Being Judged
- Man in Linen Marks Salvation for Those Grieving Sin

“Then He said to me, ‘The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, ‘The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!’

(Ezekiel 9:9)

Sin Results in "Departure" & Exodus of God's Spirit from His Temple

God's Glory Leaves The Temple (Ezekiel 10:3-19)

³ Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the temple **North Side** when the man entered, and the cloud filled the inner court.

⁴ Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

⁵ Moreover, the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when He speaks.

⁶ It came about when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim," he entered and stood beside a wheel.

⁷ Then the cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire which was between the cherubim, took *some* and put *it* into the hands of the one clothed in linen, who took *it* and went out.

⁸ The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings.

⁹ Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels *was* like the gleam of a Tarshish stone.

¹⁰ As for their appearance, all four of them had the same likeness, as if **one wheel were within another wheel.**

¹¹ When they moved, they went in *any of* their four directions without turning as they went; but they followed in the direction which they faced, without turning as they went.

¹² Their whole body, their backs, their hands, their wings and the wheels were full of eyes all around, the wheels belonging to all four of them.

¹³ The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.

¹⁴ **And each one had four faces. The first face *was* the face of a cherub, the second face *was* the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.**

¹⁵ Then the cherubim rose up. They are the living beings that I saw by the river Chebar.

¹⁶ Now when the cherubim moved, the wheels would go beside them; also when the cherubim lifted up their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels would not turn from beside them.

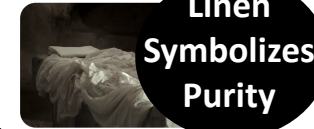
¹⁷ **When the cherubim stood still, the wheels would stand still; and when they rose up, the wheels would rise with them, for the spirit of the living beings *was* in them.**

¹⁸ Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

¹⁹ When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight with the wheels beside them; and **they stood still at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.**

North Side

Purifying the Path of Jerusalem



Working through human hands & powered angelically

Cherub Reference Point

- The Lord had left Samson (Judges 16:20)
- The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14, 18:12)
- David feared the departure of the Spirit (Psalm 51:11)



The coals represent purification and cleansing judgment (Leviticus 16:12; Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 6:6). The rain of fire is similar to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24, 28)

Ezekiel again sees the Lord's "chariot throne" (Ezekiel 1:13-25)

This cloud was the Shekinah Glory – God's earthly manifestation (Exodus 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11)

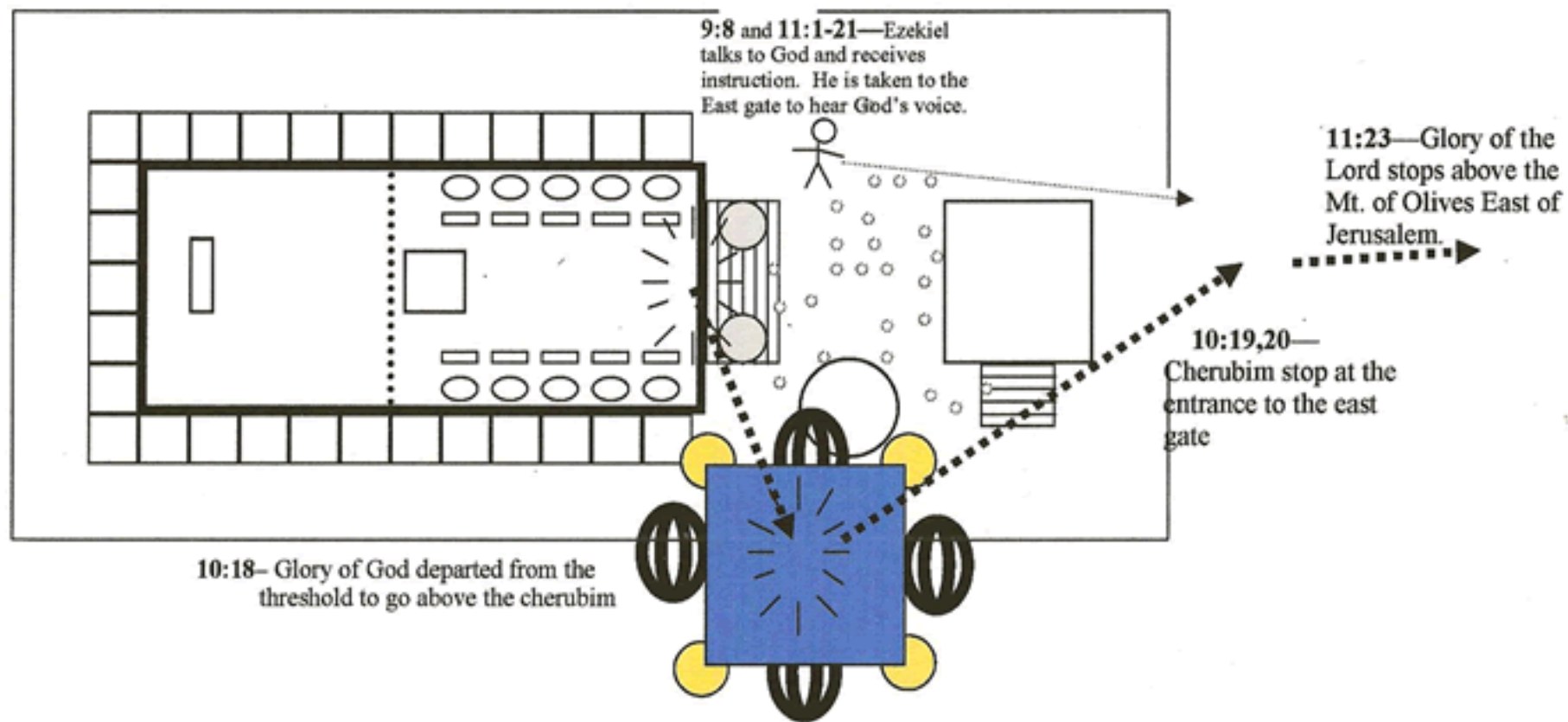
The judgment was forewarned as God's glory had departed from Shiloh (Jeremiah 7:12, 14; 26:6, 9; 41:5) when Eli's grandson was named Ichabod meaning "God's glory has departed" (1 Samuel 4:12-22)

The tragic departure of the Spirit from the Temple was methodical, hesitant, but deliberate.

The Spirit went out of the Temple and beyond the East Gate to the Mt. of Olives (Ezekiel 11:23) where Jesus ascended (Acts 1:12) and where He will return again (Zechariah 14:4).

Solomon's Temple as seen in Jerusalem
in Ezekiel's vision of 592 BC
in Ezekiel 10 – 11

↑
NORTH



A Valid Message is Based on the Word of God

Judgment on False Prophets (Ezekiel 13:1-14)



Crafty & cunning foxes living among rubble & wreckage



These may have been the men that Ezekiel saw worshipping idols and the sun (Ezekiel 8:16-18)

While Ezekiel was in Babylon, false prophets remained in Jerusalem claiming that God would soon restore the exiles to the city.

The religious leaders were foolishly pretending that they had heard from the Lord.

Sincerity and assertion do not necessarily equate to truth or inspiration. (2 Peter 2:1-3)

The false prophets had echoed the world's sinful fabrications (Ezekiel 13:7)

The false prophets had followed their own nature instead of relying on the Spirit of the Lord.

The prophets were meant to selflessly protect the people through unpopular warnings instead of selfishly using the people of Israel for self-gain.

False prophets are either deceived or deceivers...or possibly both. (2 Timothy 3:13)

After the failure of these predictions (the falling of the wall in the torrential storms), everyone would understand that the false prophets had misled God's people.

This world might have visions of peace without Jesus, but He is the only source of peace.

This world mistakes sex & tolerance for love

God would judge the façade as well as those who participated in building the façade.

KNOW JESUS KNOW PEACE

The false prophets proclaim peace and prosperity when the sinful society is bringing God's judgment.

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,
² **"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, 'Listen to the word of the LORD!**
³ Thus says the Lord GOD, **"Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit** and have seen nothing.
⁴ O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins.
⁵ You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the LORD.
⁶ **They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, 'The LORD declares,' when the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of *their* word.**
⁷ **Did you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said, 'The LORD declares,' but it is not I who have spoken?'"**
⁸ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, **"Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you," declares the Lord GOD.**
⁹ **"So My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am the Lord GOD.**
¹⁰ **It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash;**
¹¹ **so tell those who plaster *it* over with whitewash, that it will fall.** A flooding rain will come, and you, O hailstones, will fall; and a violent wind will break out.
¹² Behold, when the wall has fallen, will you not be asked, 'Where is the plaster with which you plastered *it*?'"
¹³ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "I will make a violent wind break out in My wrath. There will also be in My anger a flooding rain and hailstones to consume *it* in wrath.
¹⁴ **So I will tear down the wall which you plastered over with whitewash and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation is laid bare; and when it falls, you will be consumed in its midst. And you will know that I am the LORD.**

False Prophet Condemnation

False Prophets are Condemned for Six Reasons (Ezekiel 13:2-7)

1.	Ezekiel 13:2	They prophesy from their own inspiration
2.	Ezekiel 13:3	They follow their own spirit
3.	Ezekiel 13:3	They have seen nothing
4.	Ezekiel 13:5	They did not stand in the breach or build a wall to protect Israel
5.	Ezekiel 13:7	They see falsehood
6.	Ezekiel 13:7	They have spoken falsehood & misled God's people

- Scripture records the confrontations of God's true prophets against false prophets:
 - Elijah confronts the 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)
 - Micaiah confronts Ahab's 400 Prophets (1 Kings 22)
 - Jeremiah confronts Hananiah (Jeremiah 28)
- The criteria of a true prophets include: accuracy, speaking in God's name, predicated on people's repentance and faithfulness leading to obedience under God
(Deuteronomy 13:1-4; 18:22; Matthew 7; 1 John 4:1-6)
- Ensure that the message brings glory to Jesus while the life and words of the speaker are consistent with the Word of God.

Judgment of False Prophets

God Judges False Prophets in Three Ways (Ezekiel 13:9)

1. “No place in the council of My people”	Lose their leadership
2. Not recorded in the registry of Israel	Names removed from the covenant people (Rev 20:12)
3. Not enter the land of Israel	They would not be restored to the Promised Land

- The Hebrew word for a weak shell of a “wall” is “ḥayīṣ” (חַיִּץ)
 - David Kimchi (a Jewish scholar circa 1200) stated this word for “wall” means an “inferior partition”. (Matthew 23:27; Acts 23:3)
- There was a breach in the city wall that had fallen down was thought to have been rebuilt, but was just a façade. (Ezekiel 13:5)
- Whitewash plaster with untreated mortar that falls apart (Job 13:4; Psalm 119:69)

Charismatic prophetesses with great emotion misled the people (1 Cor 14:34; 1 Tim 2:11-12)

Judgment on False Prophetesses (Ezekiel 13:17-23)

¹⁷ “Now you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration. Prophecy against them ¹⁸ and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Woe to the women who sew *magic* bands on all wrists and make veils for the heads of *persons* of every stature **to hunt** down lives! Will you hunt down the lives of My people, but preserve the lives of *others* for yourselves? ¹⁹ For handfuls of barley and fragments of bread, **you have profaned Me to My people to put to death some who should not die and to keep others alive who should not live**, by your lying to My people who listen to lies.””

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against your *magic* bands by which **you hunt lives** there as birds and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let them go, even those lives whom **you hunt** as birds. ²¹ I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, and they will no longer be in your hands to be hunted; and **you will know that I am the LORD.** ²² Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way *and* preserve his life, ²³ therefore, you women will no longer see false visions or practice divination, and I will deliver My people out of your hand. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.”



Some Deserve Death



These may have been the women Ezekiel saw weeping for Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:13-14)

These prophetesses were hunting for souls then giving good luck charms and talismans; God does not condone the concept of “luck” as He alone blesses in contrast to any useless, physical possession.

These prophetesses would perform voodoo type hexes and would take advantage of people as do modern fortune tellers.

Followers of the false prophetesses would wear wrist/arm bracelets and veils.

The women were as idolatrous as the men; on the second day of the fourth month, women were to mourn for the false god Tammuz who folklore claimed was the son of Nimrod – “sun god”. (Isaiah 17:10-11)

Tammuz was a Babylonian deity that is the Sumerian god (Dumuzi) of agriculture who would follow the seasons of the year – dying off at the end of the year and resurrected in the Spring.

Catholics associate the time of Lent with the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness (Mark 1:13). However, Lent preceded the annual festival in memorial of the death and resurrection of Tammuz -- which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing.

Prophetesses of the Bible		
Name	Scripture	Association
1. Miriam	Exodus 15:20	Aaron’s Sister
2. Deborah	Judges 4:4	Wife of Lappidath
3. Huldah	2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chronicles 34:22	Wife of Shallum
4. *Noadiah	Nehemiah 6:14	<i>Wickedly wanted to intimidate Nehemiah</i>
5. Isaiah’s Wife	Isaiah 8:3	Mother of “Maher-shalal-hash-baz”
6. Anna	Luke 2:36	Daughter of Phanuel
7. **Four Virgin Daughters	Acts 21:9	Daughters of Philip the evangelist who prophesied
8. ***Jezebel	Revelation 2:20	<i>“Calls herself a prophetess” as she deceives</i>
*The Prophetesses Noadiah & Jezebel who were not associated with a male were also wicked		
**The Four Virgin Daughters are not explicitly referenced as prophetesses, but they did prophecy		
***Jezebel calls herself a prophetess, but she was wicked		

Individuals Seeking God
Must Be Willing to Change

Elders Accused (Ezekiel 14:1-11)

¹ Then some elders of Israel came to me and sat down before me.

² And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

³ "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity. Should I be consulted by them at all?"

⁴ Therefore speak to them and tell them, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Any man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and *then* comes to the prophet, I the LORD will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols, ⁵ in order to lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel who are estranged from Me through all their idols."

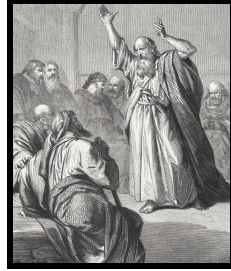
⁶ "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

⁷ For anyone of the house of Israel or of the immigrants who stay in Israel who separates himself from Me, sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and *then* comes to the prophet to inquire of Me for himself, I the LORD will be brought to answer him in My own person.

⁸ I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from among My people. So you will know that I am the LORD.

⁹ "But if the prophet is prevailed upon to speak a word, it is I, the LORD, who have prevailed upon that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.

¹⁰ They will bear *the punishment of their iniquity*; as the iniquity of the inquirer is, so the iniquity of the prophet will be, ¹¹ in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me and no longer defile themselves with all their transgressions. Thus they will be My people, and I shall be their God," declares the Lord GOD."



The elders gathered at Ezekiel's house as they had done before and would do again (Ezekiel 8:1; 20:1).

Although the religious leaders had misled the people, they unrepentantly approached the Lord as if He would hear their prayers.

As the idolaters sought Him, the Lord would answer each man's inquiry according to his idolatry.

The idols of an individual alienate him from the Lord (Ezekiel 14:6-8)

Instead of approaching God while living a life of sin, God calls the elders to repent.

In order to sincerely repent with the heart, the elders need to turn their faces and eyes from what they typically focus on.

God will judge those who approach Him while worshipping false gods. The one who approaches God casually while living in sin will be judged as a testimony of God's holiness

Covetousness & Greed equate to idolatry (Colossians 3:5)

As false prophets begin to deceive, the Lord would further their deception. All of creation (both good and bad) is orchestrated by the Lord. (1 Samuel 16:14-16; 1 Kings 22:22)

To be God's people, Israel was to faithfully pursue the will of the Lord and not defile themselves by pursuing the deceptive world

Those who listen to a false teacher will bear the penalty for their sins, and false teachers will bear the penalty for the sin of those who listen to them.

Repent & Live! (Ezekiel 18:21-32)

21 **“But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die.**

22 None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live.

23 **Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?**

24 **“But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die.**

25 **“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?**

26 **If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die.**

27 **But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life.**

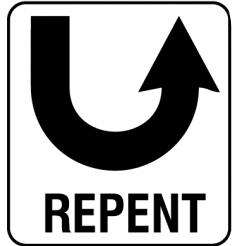
28 Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die.

29 **Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?**

30 **“Therefore, you Israelites, 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.**

31 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?

32 **For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!**



The Actions of a Righteous Man <i>(Ezekiel 18:6-9)</i>	
DOES NOT...	DOES...
1 Eat at the mountain shrines	Returns collateral to the debtor
2 Raise his eyes to idols	Gives his bread to the hungry
3 Defile his neighbor's wife	Covers the naked with clothing
4 Have sexual relations during her period	Keep his hand from wrongdoing
5 Does not oppress anyone	Carry out true justice
6 Commit robbery	Follows God's statutes/ordinances
7 Lend for interest and profit	Is Faithful
...this man will certainly live... <i>(Ezekiel 18:9)</i>	

Obedience — Life (Deuteronomy 4:40, 5:16)
 — Death (Hosea 8:3; Amos 5:4)

Followers of God have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ; they have a growing doctrinal understanding and a submissive lifestyle ever changing to be more pleasing to Him. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The Old Covenant/Testament concept of righteousness is a man doing what he knows God commands whereas the New Covenant/Testament concept of righteousness is a righteousness imputed by God.

Old Testament unfaithfulness teaches that man is unable to fully keep God's law (Romans 8:3-4), so Christ became the perfect sacrifice for man (1 John 2:1-6).

Lifestyle & godly obedience determines an individual's relationship and closeness to God.

God desires to bless instead of judge

Even for a righteous man, sin brings consequences up to death. (Galatians 6:7)

Ezekiel emphasizes God's willingness to forgive (Ezekiel 18:21)

“To Do or Not To Do”

God’s Commands to the Children of Israel in the Wilderness *(Ezekiel 20:18-20)*

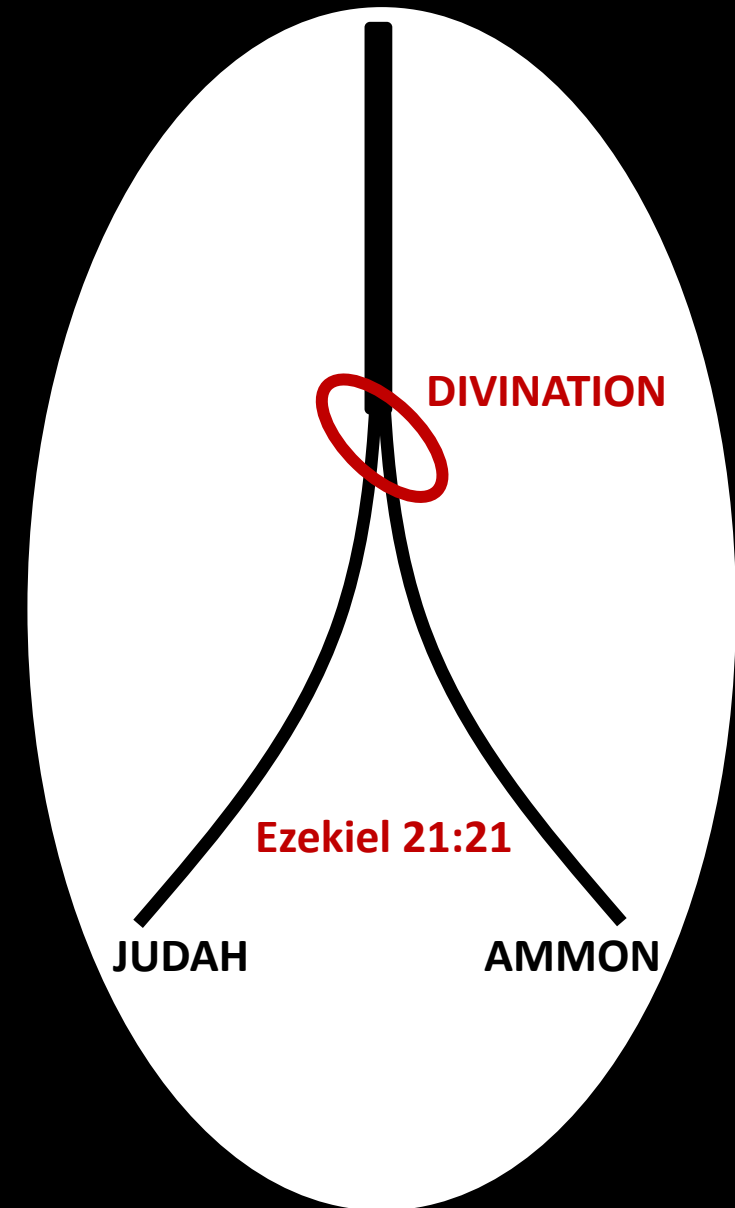
DO NOT...		DO...
1	Follow the statutes of your fathers	Follow God’s Statutes
2	Defile yourselves with their idols	Keep & Practice God’s Ordinances
3	Keep ordinances of idolaters	Keep God’s Sabbaths Holy

- The hearts of His people turned to idols, but God stayed faithful to their children
- While children must honor their parents (and everyone must respect authority), God is the supreme power and should be obeyed above all
- The Sabbaths were a sign of God’s relationship with His people

God Uses True Prophets & False Divinations (Ezekiel 21)

Prophets/Drippers:

- The Hebrew word for “speak” (nataph נָטַף) also means to “drip” (Judges 5:4; Job 29:22; Psalm 68:8; Joel 3:18)
- Prophets can be referenced as “drippers.” (Ezekiel 20:46, 21:2; Amos 7:16, 9:13; Micah 2:6, 11)
- The Hebrew word “nataph” can also be used for seductive speech (Proverbs 5:3; Song of Solomon 4:11)
- The Ezekiel would draw a map depicting Nebuchadnezzar at the crossroads between Ammon and Judah
- Babylon is using divination to give them guidance even so much as pursuing hepatoscopy (“the reading of the liver”), but in reality, God is affecting the results



Israel as the “Dross” (Ezekiel 22:17-22)

Dross:

- The God would use the heat of judgment to remove the impurities from His redeemed (represented by silver). (Psalm 119:119; Proverbs 25:4-5; 26:23; Isaiah 1:21-25; Ezekiel 22:18-22)
- After the silver is mined, it has to be refined through the application of heat. As the heat melts the silver, the impurities (called “dross” which were entrenched in the silver) float to the top to be skimmed off.
 - “Dross” is a solid waste which is different from “Slag,” which is a liquid.
 - The term “dross” means an “undesirable, unprofitable work”
 - The word is derived from the Old English word “dros” which referred to the scum that was produced when smelting metals (extracting metals from their ores)
- Dross must be removed for the silver to be used properly, and each time the silver is heated, there is less and less dross to be removed.
- Finally, there is a pure product when the silversmith can see his likeness reflected in the silver.



The Parable of the Two Sisters: “Oholah” & “Oholibah” (Ezekiel 23)

Oholah is Samaria/Israel:

- In Hebrew, “Oholah” means “her tent/tabernacle.”
- The northern kingdom of Israel had established her own temple and worship
- The northern kingdom of Israel adopted false foreign gods as their own including Assyria’s god of Asshur.
- Oholah/Israel was exiled by Assyria in 722BC which was a century before this time (586BC).

Oholibah is Jerusalem/Judah:

- In Hebrew, “Oholibah” means “my tent/tabernacle is in her”
- The Lord had constructed His Temple in Jerusalem of the southern kingdom of Judah; the Lord had placed His name there.
- The worldly covetousness and alliances of Judah were even more wicked than Israel as Judah assimilated into the licentious idolatrous practices of other nations.



Good ingredients & Preparation
are Wasted in a Rusty Pot

The Boiling Pot (Ezekiel 24:1-14)



This date of January 15, 588 BC was the day on which Nebuchadnezzar began his third and final siege of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 52:4)

The lesson of the boiling pot refers to Israel's unfounded security (Ezekiel 11:2). The melting pot metaphor is used multiple times (Jeremiah 1:13-14)

All the best pieces of meat had been put into the pot as Jerusalem had been filled with all of the choice benefits from the Lord.

There would be no way to fix the corrosion and rust of the boiling pot which had infected all of the choice pieces of meat. The entirety of the contents needed to be discarded and thrown away.

Blood on a rock (1 Corinthians 10:4) is a lasting stain contrasted with blood on the ground which can be covered and hidden.

Preparation of Ezekiel 24:10 would be wasted because the contents were put into a corrosive vessel that polluted any of the contents.

The time of cleansing & purification had passed, and now was the time of judgment according to their deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12; 1 Peter 1:17).

The Lord's Claims Will Occur:
(Ezekiel 24:14)

1. It shall come to pass
2. I will do it
3. I will not go back
4. I will not spare
5. I will not relent

¹ And the word of the LORD came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth of the month, saying,

² "Son of man, write the name of the day, this very day.

The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.

³ Speak a parable to the rebellious house and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Put on the pot, put *it* on and also pour water in it;

⁴ Put in it the pieces, Every good piece, the thigh and the shoulder; Fill *it* with choice bones.

⁵ "Take the choicest of the flock, and also pile wood under the pot. Make it boil vigorously. Also seethe its bones in it."

⁶ "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe to the bloody city, to the pot in which there is rust and whose rust has not gone out of it! Take out of it piece after piece, without making a choice.

⁷ "For her blood is in her midst; She placed it on the bare rock; She did not pour it on the ground to cover it with dust.

⁸ "That it may cause wrath to come up to take vengeance, I have put her blood on the bare rock, that it may not be covered."

⁹ "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe to the bloody city! I also will make the pile great.

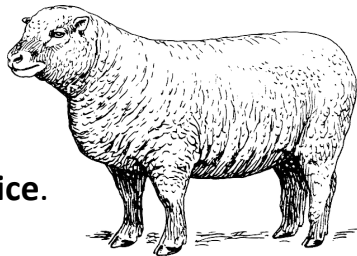
¹⁰ "Heap on the wood, kindle the fire, Boil the flesh well and mix in the spices, and let the bones be burned.

¹¹ "Then set it empty on its coals so that it may be hot and its bronze may glow and its filthiness may be melted in it, Its rust consumed.

¹² "She has wearied *Me* with toil, yet her great rust has not gone from her; Let her rust *be* in the fire!

¹³ "In your filthiness is lewdness. because I *would* have cleansed you, yet you are not clean, You will not be cleansed from your filthiness again until I have spent My wrath on you.

¹⁴ I, the LORD, have spoken; it is coming and I will act. I will not relent, and I will not pity and I will not be sorry; according to your ways and according to your deeds I will judge you," declares the Lord GOD."



Ezekiel Would Empathize with the Loss of the God's "Bride" Jerusalem

The Death of Ezekiel's Wife (Ezekiel 24:15-27)

¹⁵ And the word of the LORD came to me saying,
¹⁶ "Son of man, behold, I am about to take from you the desire of your eyes with a blow; but you shall not mourn and you shall not weep, and your tears shall not come.
¹⁷ Groan silently; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban and put your shoes on your feet, and do not cover *your* mustache and do not eat the bread of men."

¹⁸ So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. And in the morning I did as I was commanded.

¹⁹ The people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things that you are doing mean for us?"

²⁰ Then I said to them, "The word of the LORD came to me saying,
²¹ 'Speak to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am about to profane My sanctuary, the pride of your power, the desire of your eyes and the delight of your soul; and your sons and your daughters whom you have left behind will fall by the sword.

²² You will do as I have done; you will not cover *your* mustache and you will not eat the bread of men.

²³ Your turbans will be on your heads and your shoes on your feet. You will not mourn and you will not weep, but you will rot away in your iniquities and you will groan to one another.

²⁴ Thus Ezekiel will be a sign to you; according to all that he has done you will do; when it comes, then you will know that I am the Lord God."

²⁵ 'As for you, son of man, will *it* not be on the day when I take from them their stronghold, the joy of their pride, the desire of their eyes and their heart's delight, their sons and their daughters,

²⁶ that on that day he who escapes will come to you with information for *your* ears?

²⁷ On that day your mouth will be opened to him who escaped, and you will speak and be mute no longer. Thus you will be a sign to them, and they will know that I am the LORD."



On this day that God loses His bride (Israel) through the downfall of Jerusalem, Ezekiel's wife also dies to reflect God's loss.

Ezekiel is told not to grieve out loud, but instead to get dressed for ministry.

After being forewarned, Ezekiel preached with the knowledge that his wife would die, and when she did, Ezekiel obeyed the Lord's commands to not grieve openly.

The manner that Ezekiel behaved after his wife's death was a witness.

The Pride of Israel was towards their Temple & their children – both would be destroyed

The grief of loss would not compel them towards repentance with God, but instead, they would gossip and complain to one another.

Just as the Lord had lost His children to idolatry, the people of Judah lost their children who had been their "soul's desire" before Babylon killed them

Prophecy Fulfilled

Ezekiel prophesies that escapees who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction would arrive in Babylon with the report of Jerusalem's fall.

Fulfillment 7 years later...
"Now in the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth of the tenth month, the refugees from Jerusalem came to me, saying, 'The city has been taken.'" (Ezekiel 33:21).

God's Commands Concerning the Prophet's Relationships

The Marriages of the Prophets

(Submitting to the Lord in Life's Greatest Decisions)

Isaiah 8:3	Isaiah	Married a Prophetess
Jeremiah 16:2	Jeremiah	Told Not to Marry
Ezekiel 24:15-18	Ezekiel	Told Wife Would Die
Hosea 1:2	Hosea	Told to Marry a Prostitute

Judgment on Enemy Nations of Israel (Ezekiel 25-32)

Judgment on the Enemy Nations against Israel		
1.	Ammon	Ezekiel 25:1-7
2.	Moab	Ezekiel 25:8-11
3.	Edom	Ezekiel 25:12-14
4.	Philistines	Ezekiel 25:15-17
5.	Tyre	Ezekiel 26:1-28:19
6.	Sidon	Ezekiel 28:20-23
7.	Egypt	Ezekiel 29-32

Isaiah's
"Oracles against
the Nations"
Chapters 13-23

Jeremiah's
"Prophecy against
the Nations"
Chapters 46-51

Daniel's
"Visions against
the Empires"
Daniel 2:31-35
& 7:1-8

*"At God's initial call of Abraham, the Lord asserted that "those who bless you, I will bless, and those who curse you, I will curse."
(Genesis 12:1-3)*

*"From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations."
(Revelation 19:15)*

Judgment Against Tyre (Ezekiel 26-28)

(Ezekiel 26:2-14)

² “Son of man, because Tyre has said concerning Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, *now that she is laid waste,*

³ therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.

⁴ They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock.

⁵ She will be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘and she will become spoil for the nations.

⁶ Also her daughters who are on the mainland will be slain by the sword, and they will know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ For thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry and a great army.

⁸ He will slay your daughters on the mainland with the sword; and he will make siege walls against you, cast up a ramp against you and raise up a large shield against you.

⁹ The blow of his battering rams he will direct against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers.

¹⁰ Because of the multitude of his horses, the dust *raised by* them will cover you; your walls will shake at the noise of cavalry and wagons and chariots when he enters your gates as men enter a city that is breached.

¹¹ With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will slay your people with the sword; and your strong pillars will come down to the ground.

¹² Also they will make a spoil of your riches and a prey of your merchandise, break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses, and

throw your stones and your timbers and your debris into the water.

¹³ So I will silence the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps will be heard no more.

¹⁴ I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place for the spreading of nets.

You will be built no more, for I the LORD have spoken,” declares the Lord GOD.

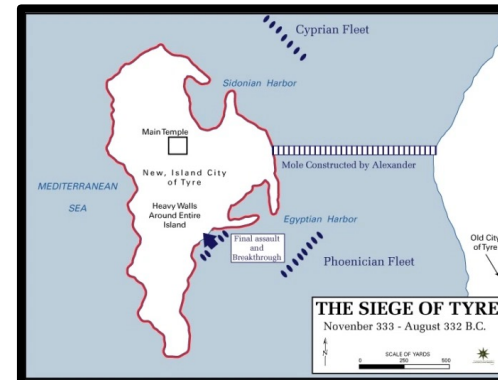


Four Oracles Against Tyre

1.	Prophecy against the nation of Tyre as a whole	Ezekiel 26:1-6
2.	A Lament/Dirge about Tyre	Ezekiel 26:15-27:36
3.	Prophecy against the ruler of Tyre	Ezekiel 28:1-10
4.	Prophecy against the king of Tyre	Ezekiel 28:11-19

Ezekiel 26 Prophecies Fulfilled

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Nebuchadnezzar would destroy mainland city	In 573BC, King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the mainland city of Tyre after 13-year siege; most inhabitants had fled to island ½ mile off coast
The debris of Tyre would be thrown into the water	In 332BC, those on the Tyre Island taunted Alexander the Great’s army who used debris from the mainland city to construct a causeway
Tyre would become a bare rock	The Island of Tyre consists of only bare rocks with a small fishing village
Many nations would come against Tyre	Beyond the causeway, Alexander the Great used captured ships from many nations (i.e. Sidon, Cypress) to attack the island
The city would never be rebuilt	Muslims destroyed any remnant of Tyre in 1291AD during the Crusades; a different “Tyre” was built several miles away on mainland



Tyre was the capital city of the great Phoenician nation. At one point, the Tyre king was a friend of David/Solomon, but the alliance fell away, and Tyre began trafficking Israelites as slaves (Isaiah 23).

Tyre as a Ship (Ezekiel 27)

Four Oracles Against Tyre	
1. Prophecy against the nation of Tyre	Ezekiel 26:1-6
2. A Lament/Dirge about Tyre	Ezekiel 26:15-27:36
3. Prophecy against the ruler of Tyre	Ezekiel 28:1-10
4. Prophecy against the king of Tyre	Ezekiel 28:11-19

A Ship as a Metaphor for the City of Tyre					
1.	Ez 27:5	Planking	Pine Trees	Senir	Ship Construct
2.	Ez 27:5	Mast	Cedar	Lebanon	“ “
3.	Ez 27:6	Oars	Oaks	Bashan	“ “
4.	Ez 27:6	Deck	Cypress inlaid with Ivory	Cyprus	“ “
5.	Ez 27:7	Sail/Banner	Embroidered Linen	Egypt	Thrust of Ship
6.	Ez 27:7	Awning	Blue & Purple Fabric	Elishah	
7.	Ez 27:8	Rowers	Rowers	Sidon & Arvad*	Staff of Ship
8.	Ez 27:8	Helmsmen	Wise Men	Tyre	“ “
9.	Ez 27:9	Repairers	Wise Men	Elders of Gebal	“ “
10.	Ez 27:10	Army Warriors bringing Splendor	Men	Persia, Lud, Put	“ “
11.	Ez 27:11	Lookouts	Men	Arvad*, Helech, Gamad (area of Arvad)	“ “
12.	Ez 27:12	Trading Partner	Silver, Iron, Tin, Lead	Tarshish*	First & Final Partner Listed (Ez 27:25)
13.	Ez 27:13	Merchants	Slaves, Bronze Utensils	Javan, Tubal, Meshech	
14.	Ez 27:14	<i>Merchants (implied)</i>	Horses, War Horses, Mules	Beth-togarmah	
15.	Ez 27:15	Merchants		Dedan	
16.	Ez 27:15	Regular Markets	Ivory Tusks, Ebony	Many Coasts & Islands	

A Ship as a Metaphor for the City of Tyre					
17.	Ez 27:16	Trading Partner	Turquoise, Purple, Embroidered Cloth, Fine Linen, Coral, Rubies	Aram	
18.	Ez 27:17	Merchants	Wheat, Minnith, Meal, Honey, Oil, Balm	Judah & the Land of Israel	Food/Sustenance & Medications
19.	Ez 27:18	Trading Partner	Wine, White Wool	Damascus, Helbon	
20.	Ez 27:19		Wrought Iron, Cassia, Aromatic Cane	Vedan & Javan from Uzal	
21.	Ez 27:20	Merchants	Saddlebacks	Dedan	
22.	Ez 27:21	Business Partners	Lambs, Rams, Goats	Arabia, Princes of Kedar	
23.	Ez 27:22	Merchants	Gold, Spices, Precious Stones	Sheba*, Raamah	
24.	Ez 27:23-24	Merchants	Choice Garments, Cloaks of Blue & Embroidered Materials, Multicolored Carpets	Haran, Canneh, Eden, Merchants of Sheba*, Asshur, Chilmad	
25.	Ez 27:25	Carriers		Ships of Tarshish*	

Satan is Exiled From God's Presence

The Fall of Satan (Ezekiel 28:11-18)

¹¹ Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,
¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.



Ezekiel is called "Son of Man" as his humanity is emphasized as he is directed to lament (grieve) over the downfall of the King of Tyre.

The transition occurs from "Prince of Tyre" to "King" revealing the greater evil of Satan in contrast with simply the anti-Christ; Satan had wisdom without understanding (Psalm 119:34)

¹³ "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

The 3rd row of Gems on the Priest's Ephod was not represented in Satan's splendor

"It shall be square and folded double, a span in length and a span in width. You shall mount on it four rows of stones;
 • *the first row shall be a row of ruby, topaz and emerald;*
 • *and the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and a diamond;*
 • *and the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst;*
 • *and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx and a jasper;*
they shall be set in gold filigree." (Exodus 28:16-20)



¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.
¹⁵ "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

The fiery coals were used to purify & punish (Ezekiel 10:2, 7, 9, 41:18)

V13 The musical/attractive Satan was in the garden of Eden, but he was created with these abilities for God's glory (John 1:3)

Satan was appointed one of the four key angels (cherub Ezekiel 10:14; Exodus 25:18-22; 2 Samuel 22:11; Psalm 18:10, 99:1) surrounding God's throne who covers (inferring the "head" or governing).

¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.

Iniquity was found in Satan from having grown out of business activities (bartering, trading) which led to internal aggression/competitiveness resulting in sin

The Hebrew word for "Trade" (רַכֻּלְיָתְךָ) has the connotation of going about from one person to another with broad contact (widespread connections and network).

¹⁸ "By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you.

The achievement of Satan's works caused him to become lawless as he attempted to increase accomplishment through self-effort in his own way.

As is so often the case, beauty caused pride and rebellion

In His sovereignty, God will humble Satan as a testimony before Kings

Titles of Satan

(Ezekiel 28:11-18)

Names of the Evil One		
Job 1:6	Satan	“Adversary” = Fifty-two times in Scripture
Isaiah 14:12	Son of the Morning	Only once in Scripture
Isaiah 14:12	Day Star	Translated Lucifer
Revelation 22:16	Morning Star	Similar to Isaiah’s “Day Star”
Ezekiel 28:14	The Anointed Cherub	Walked among the stones of fire
Matthew 4:1	The Devil (“Slanderer”)	Only appears in the New Testament
Revelation 12:10	Accuser of God’s People	Watching to accuse before God
Matthew 4:3	Tempter	Attempts to tempt even Jesus
Matthew 12:24	Beelzebul	Meaning “Lord of the Flies/Dung”
Matthew 13:19	The Evil One	Snatching God’s Word from men
2 Corinthians 6:15	Belial	The inference is “vileness.”
Matthew 13:39	Enemy	Sows rebels among believers
John 8:44	Father of Lies	There is no truth in him
Revelation 12:9	Deceiver of the Whole World	Persuader of an unbelieving world
2 Corinthians 11:14	Angel of Light	Deceptive appearance
John 8:44	Murderer	He murdered in the Garden of Eden
Revelation 9:11	Abaddon/Apollyon	Angel of the Abyss
Matthew 9:34	Ruler of Demons	Taking 1/3 of the Angels (Rev 12:4)
John 14:30	Ruler of This World	Authority of this world (1 John 5:19)
Ephesians 2:2	Ruler of the Air	Kingdom of the air is current wicked world
2 Corinthians 4:4	God of This Age	Earth will pass away (1 Pet 3:10; Lk20:34-35)
1 Peter 5:8	Roaring Lion	Seeking prey
Revelation 12:9	Dragon	Old Serpent

This is the sixth and final time for "woe" towards Israel by Ezekiel (Ez 13:3, 18, 16:23, 24:6, 9).

God Chastises "Shepherds" (Ezekiel 34:1-10)

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,
² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?"
³ You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat *sheep* without feeding the flock.
⁴ Those who are sickly you have not strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them.
⁵ They were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered.
⁶ My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; **My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them.**"
⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:
⁸ "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and **My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock;**
⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:
¹⁰ 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "**Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them.**"



The Lord would rescue His sheep from the shepherds



The Lord is the Good & True Shepherd (John 10:14-16; Psalm 78; Isaiah 44, 63; Zechariah 11, 13)

The religious leaders had not fed the flock, but exploited the flock for their personal benefit; they had destroyed the more mature, sheep.

Instead of sacrificially giving to the body of believers, the religious leaders had ruled over the believers with demands & malice.

Many religious leaders profit greatly from their ministry using it as a career instead of a humble ministry (Judges 17-18)

The local church often serves milk and infant spiritual food (1 Cor 3:2; Heb 5:12-13) leaving the more mature believer without source or community for growth.

Church had become a social gathering for the church elite – the church leaders – instead of a place of safety and resource for the weak and hurting.

Key Functions for Religious Leadership (Ezekiel 34:4)			
Function	Scripture	Spiritual	Tangible
1. Strengthen the Weak	Rom 14:1; 1 Cor 8:9; 1 Thes 5:14	Teach deeper insights of the Lord	Support those not doing well
2. Heal the Sick	Heb 12:12-13; James 5:14, 16; 1 Cor 12:9	Assist in repentance of sin	Support those who lack health
3. Bandage the Injured	Lk 10:34	Care for those hurt by sin in this world	Support those with physical wounds and disabilities
4. Recover the Strays	Mt 18:12; James 5:19	Reach out to those who have fallen away	Assist those who going through difficult times
5. Seek the Lost	Lk 19:10	Witness to the World	Proactively evangelize

God gives a new heart & Spirit similar to the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Renewal of God's People (Ezekiel 36:22-33)

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

²³ I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

²⁴ For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

²⁶ Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

²⁸ You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

²⁹ Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.

³⁰ I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.

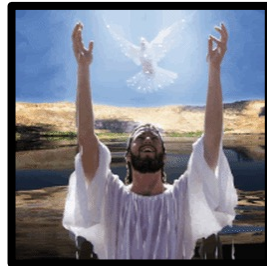
³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.

³² I am not doing *this* for your sake," declares the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!"

³³ 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt.

"Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." (2 Timothy 2:19)

Cleansing precedes fruitfulness



God's interest is His holy name (testimony & reputation) The restoration of His people is not for their benefit, but for the vindication of His holy name (1 Sam 12:22; 1 John 2:12; Isaiah 42:8)

The holiness of God was to shine through His people as a witness (Ezekiel 11:16-20, 34:13-16)

Israel would be returned to their land in post-captivity to Babylon as well as in 1948 from the global Diaspora



After Israel's return from captivity, they never had a broadscale struggle with idolatry again

God's Three Step Reconciliation

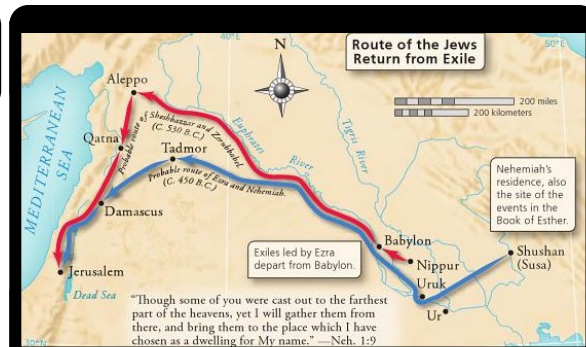
(John 3:5; Ps 51:10; Jer 31:33)

Ez 36:25	Cleansing (Forgiveness)	I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.
Ez 36:26	New Heart (Sensitivity)	I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
Ez 36:27	Spirit Filled (Obedience)	I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do <i>them</i> .

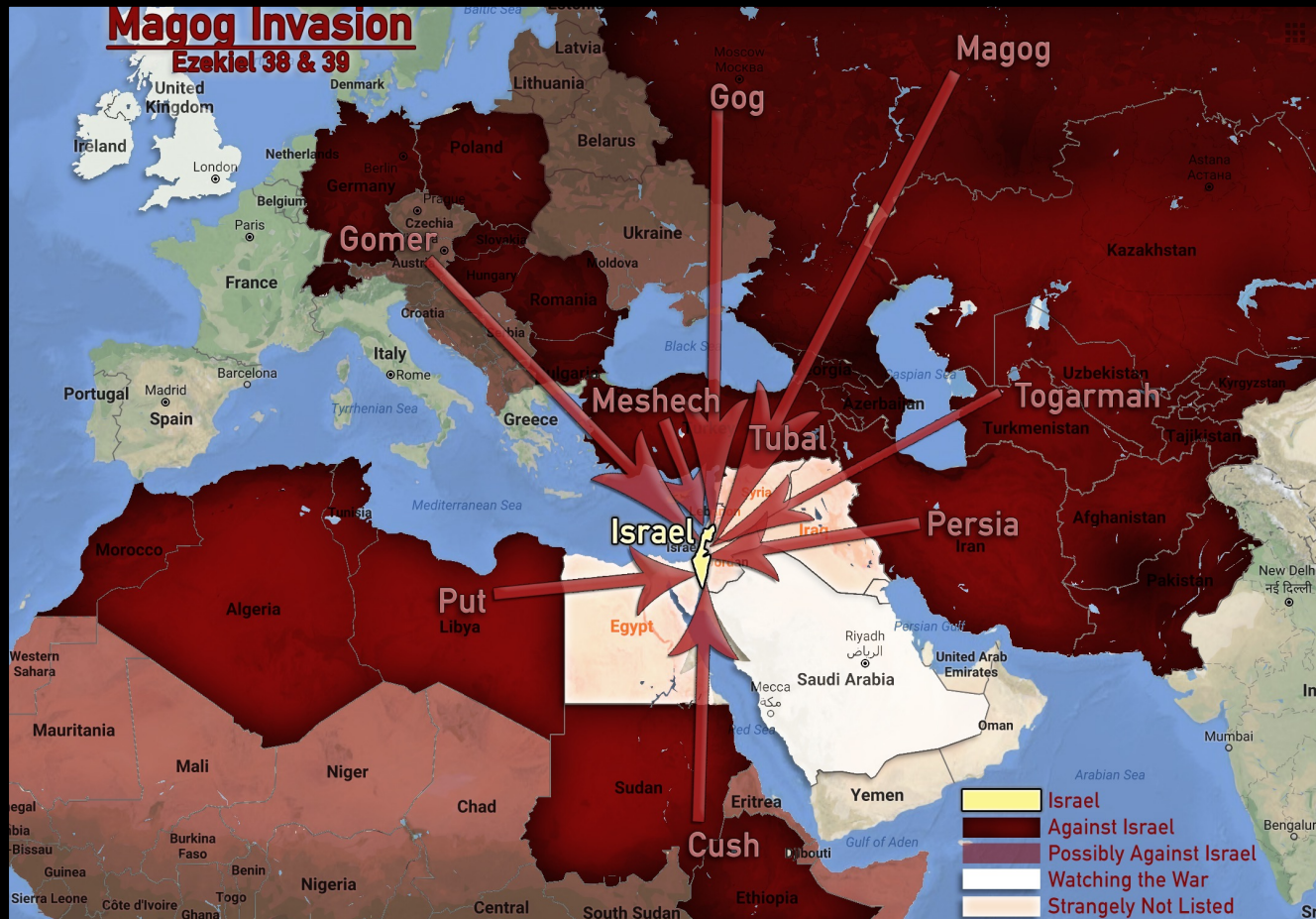
God's people are made aware of sin & their reprehensible state prior to repentance.

Sin should cause an accurate self-reflection and shame that leads to repentance & dependence on God

Restoration of Jerusalem ("city of peace") & His people after exile, bondage and slavery



Armageddon (Ezekiel 38)



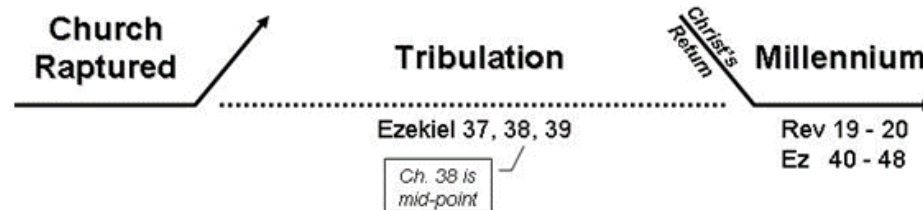
Armageddon will include all nations of the world instead of a select few.
(Joel 3:1-2a; Zechariah 12:3; 14:1-4; Revelation 16:14-16; 19:19-21)

The seven (total/complete) nations that are named in chapter 38 as attacking Israel may represent all of the nations of the world (bystanders):

1. Rosh/Meshech (West Russia)
2. Tubal (Russia –Georgia)
3. Persia (Iran)
4. Cush (Southern Nile Regions of Sudan and Ethiopia)
5. Put (Libya)
6. Gomer (Germany)
7. Beth-togarmah (Turkey, Armenia & others in Asia Minor).

End Times (Ezekiel 37-48)

Options of the Timing of the Magog Assault (Ezekiel 38:17)			
		<u>Support</u>	<u>Against</u>
Pre-Tribulation	The assault/defeat of Magog would begin 3 ½ years of peace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weapons would burn throughout tribulation. Only specific nations involved Temple rebuilt in Ez 40-48 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scriptural references to “last days” focus after beginning of Tribulation (Ez 38:8, 16) Magog attacks after peaceful period, but Israel has not been at rest since 1948
Mid-Tribulation*	The assault/defeat of Magog would begin persecution in last 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only specific nations involved Magog attacks after peaceful period, and Israel lives securely under a peace treaty for first 3 ½ years of the tribulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weapons would burn 3 ½ years into Millennium
Battle of Armageddon (End of Tribulation)	The assault/defeat of Magog would begin Millennium Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven nations represent the world as remaining nations are onlookers. Allied nations are same allies (Dan 11) Gog would be the Syrian anti-Christ Animals consume carcasses in same manner (Rev 19:17-18) Israel turns to God after Magog as well as Tribulation (Zech 12:2-10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magog attacks after peaceful period, but Israel has not been at rest during Great Tribulation All nations would be involved (Rev 16:14) No mention of Megiddo or Euphrates Weapons would burn 7 years into Millennium
End of Millennium	The assault/defeat of Magog would occur at the end of the Millennium Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit reference to Gog and Magog (Rev 20:8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Magog battle, Israel builds Temple (Ez 40-48) After Magog battle, the focus is burial while after Armageddon, the focus is judgment. Revelation might rely on symbolism of first Gog battle; this symbolic “Gog” might be reference to Satan



Life is from God alone
(Jeremiah 49:35; 1 John 5:12)

The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

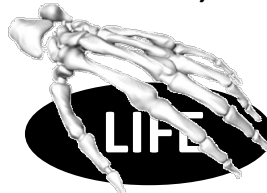
1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.



2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry.

3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know."

4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'"



5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.'

6 I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD."



7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.



9 Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'"

10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'"

12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.'



13 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.

14 I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:1-8 is experienced again in modern times as Israel has a constitution, a prime minister, a parliament and an army, but they do not have a national religion. Israel is predominantly atheistic.

God takes Ezekiel in the Spirit (Ezekiel 3:14, 8:3, 40:1; Acts 8:39) to the valley (depression point) of bones representing the (now dead) nation of Israel; this is similar to man's state prior to salvation – dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 8:2; James 1:15)

The bones were dry without the Spirit of living water

The bones had been scattered just as the nation of Israel was scattered in the diaspora.

Only God knows who is destined to life in Him.

Life in God through faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:8 & 17; Col 1:5). Witnessing can appear wasted when, in reality, God is planting the beginning of life.

Wind is symbolic of the spiritual world including the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) while the four winds speak of His omnipresence throughout all of creation.

Instead of a crowd, these skeletons became an army for God

God emphasizes again that the objective is for people to know Him. Once Israel has been restored, they should understand Jehovah, and they will at the time of Jesus' second coming.

Just as the Lord is the source of life; He would be Israel's source of land

Reunification of Judah & Israel (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came again to me saying,
¹⁶ "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.'"

¹⁷ Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

¹⁸ When the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?'

¹⁹ say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand."'

²⁰ The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

²¹ Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms."

²² They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

²³ "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them."

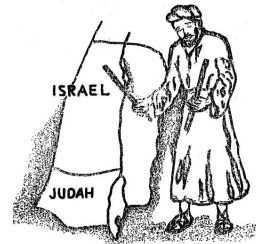
²⁴ They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.

²⁵ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

²⁶ My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

²⁷ And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."

²⁸ "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."



"Take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, ... Then take another stick and write upon it for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim." Ezek 37: 16



The word of God was not only to be spoken by Ezekiel, but also acted upon as Ezekiel wrote on a stick "Judah" (and associated Israelites) and on another stick, "Joseph" (and associated Israelites).

Ephraim was Jacob's second son after Manasseh (Genesis 41:52) and also the mightiest tribe of the northern kingdom

Ezekiel was not to explain the symbolism until the Israelites cared to ask for interpretation.

The two sticks would become a single stick in Ezekiel's hand just as the two kingdoms would become a single nation again because of the strength of the hand of God.

The breach of the Southern Kingdom (Judah & Benjamin) from the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim representing the 10 tribes) would be reunited and healed.

This also symbolizes the division of Jews from the Gentiles into a single family of God (Ephesians 2:11-22).

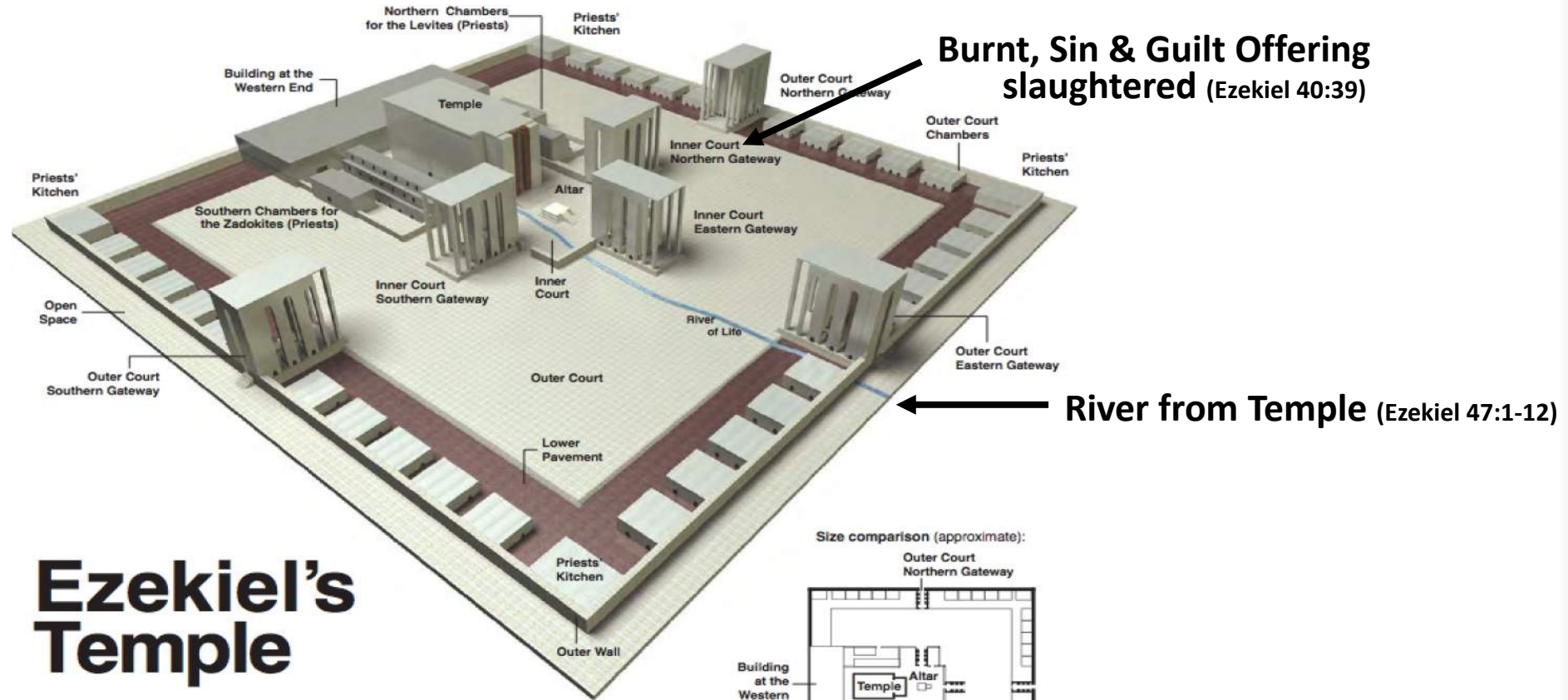
The one King over God's united people is Jesus (Matthew 27:11; Acts 17:7)

Israel will serve the King Jesus in the millennium, but even afterwards and throughout eternity, God's people will continue to serve Him.

"David's offspring" in Jesus rules as the true shepherd (Ezekiel 34:23; John 10:16) while the flock obeys His statutes (commandments) and submits to His judgments (verdicts).

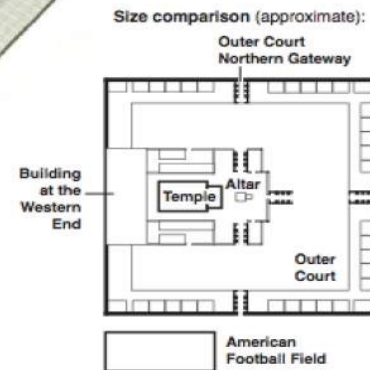
Gentiles will recognize that sanctification (holiness, purity) come from the Lord.

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel 40)



Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in AD 70, a third temple has not yet been constructed.



The Shekinah Glory enters...

The Tabernacle	Exodus 40:34-35
The Temple	1 Kings 8; 2 Chron 5 & 7

The Eastern Gate is called the "Golden Gate," "Beautiful Gate," and the "Gate of Mercy."

The Eastern Gate (Ezekiel 44:1-3)

¹ Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut.

² The LORD said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.

³ As for the prince, he shall sit in it as prince to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate and shall go out by the same way."

As a way to stop the Lord's return, the "Eastern Gate" ("Golden Gate") was sealed with stone by the Ottoman Turks (Muslim conquerors) in 1530AD as well as a cemetery placed in front of the gate to make the ground unholy.



The Millennial Prince

(Ezekiel 44-48)

The Identity of the Millennial Prince

Ezekiel 44-48

The Prince of the Millennial Rule is not Jesus

Sin Offering is made for himself	Ez 45:22	Jesus is perfect without sin
The Prince will have sons/offspring	Ez 46:16	Jesus is not married in a physical sense
A tribal-sized plot of land will be allocated to the Prince	Ez 48:21-22	Jesus is Lord of Everything

The Prince is a Descendant of David

(Ezekiel 34:23-24,37:24-25)

Priests in the Lineage of Zadok Accepted (Ezekiel 40:46, 44:15, 48:11)

Zadok (“Zedek” means “righteous”), and Melchizedek’s name (Malki-Tzedek מַלְכִי־צֶדֶק) is translated “king of righteousness” (Genesis 14:17-19; Hebrews 7:10)

Zadok was continually faithful to the rightful King

- King David against the insurrection of Absalom (2 Samuel 15:24-36; 2 Samuel 17:15, 2 Samuel 17:17-21).
 - After Absalom died, Zadok was also an intermediary preparing Judah for the rightful King’s return (2 Sam 19:11).
- Solomon versus Adonijah (1 Kings 1:8, 1 Kings 1:26, 1 Kings 1:32-45).

Zadok’s lineage descended from Aaron through Phinehas (Ezra 7:2-5) who received an eternal covenant of peace from God because of his zeal for the Lord (Numbers 25:10-13).

“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.’ “

*“There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God, the holy
place where the Most High dwells.”
(Psalm 46:4)*

The River of Life

(Ezekiel 47:1-12; Revelation 22:1-2)

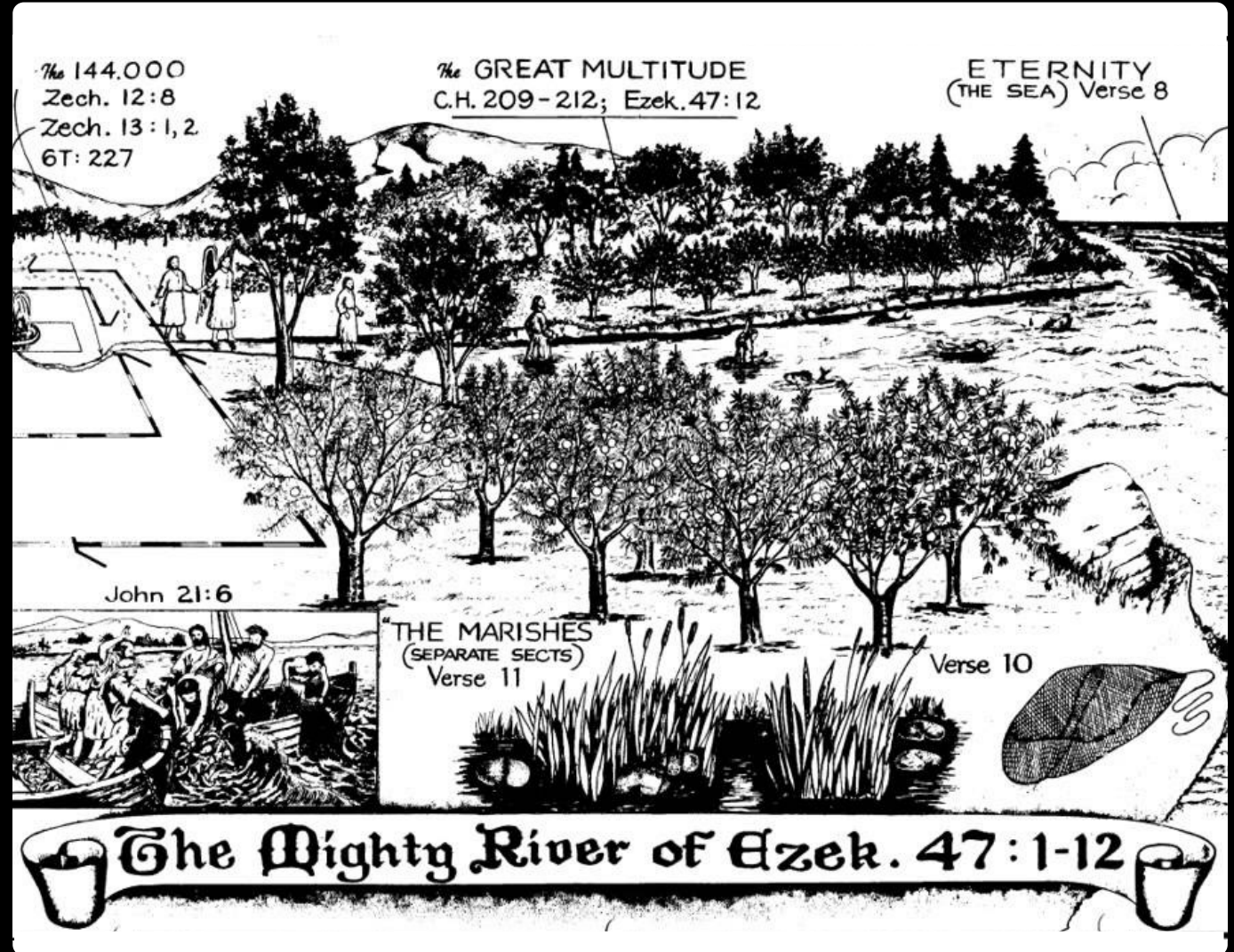
*“Whoever believes in me (Jesus),
as Scripture has said, rivers of
living water will flow from within
them.’ By this he meant the Spirit.”
(John 7:38)*

*“And on the banks, on both sides of the
river, there will grow all kinds of trees for
food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their
fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every
month, because the water for them flows
from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for
food, and their leaves for healing.”*

Ezekiel 47:12

*“...through the middle of the street of the
city; also, on either side of the river, the tree
of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding
its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree
were for the healing of the nations.”*

Revelation 22:1



Fulfillment at the Feast of Tabernacles

(Isaiah 44:2-4; John 7:37-38)

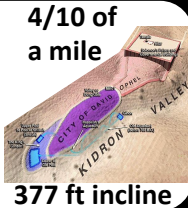
Start

The Feast of Tabernacles lasted 8 days

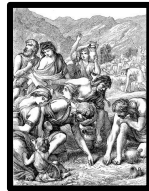


Each of the first 7 days, the Priest would walk from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam with a silver pitcher.

Each day, they would fill the pitcher with water from Siloam and carry it back to the Temple where they would pour it out



This commemorated how the Lord met the needs of Israel after the Exodus during their 40 years in the wilderness



They remembered how God provided water in the desert wilderness from the rock (Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-13)

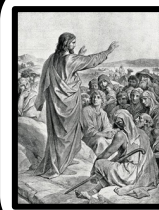
On the last day (8th Day) of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Priest carried the silver pitcher to the pool of Siloam, but did not draw out water.

The pitcher would then be taken back to the Temple to pour out nothing

The Priest would then wave willows & offer a prayer from Isaiah (44:2-4)
Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun (meaning "upright one" as in "Israel"), whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.

Israel would pray for the Messiah to come & satiate the thirst of the nation

It was at this point that Jesus identified Himself:
"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. (John 7:37-38)

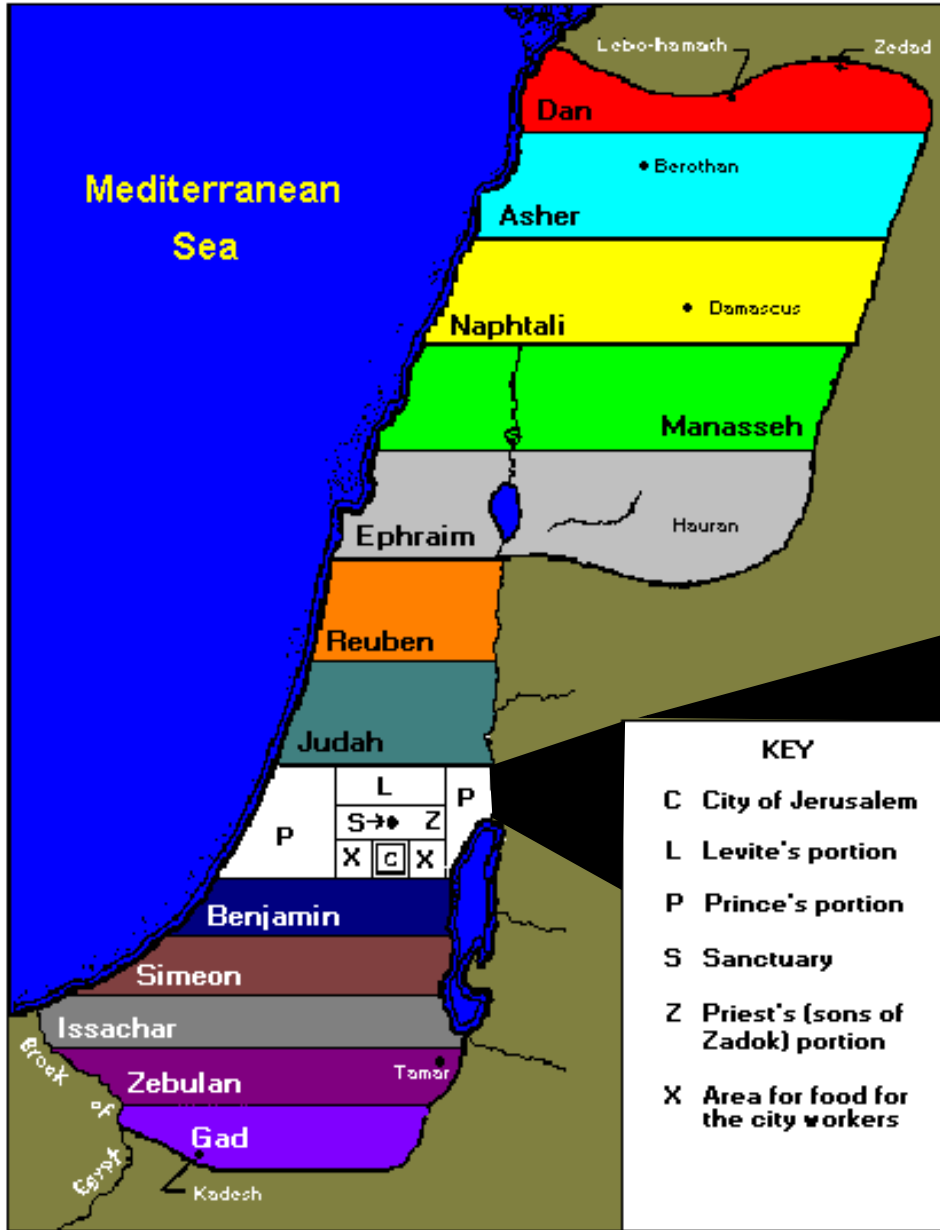


Israel "drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)

Jesus sustained Israel with water in the wilderness & He is able to sustain His people today...

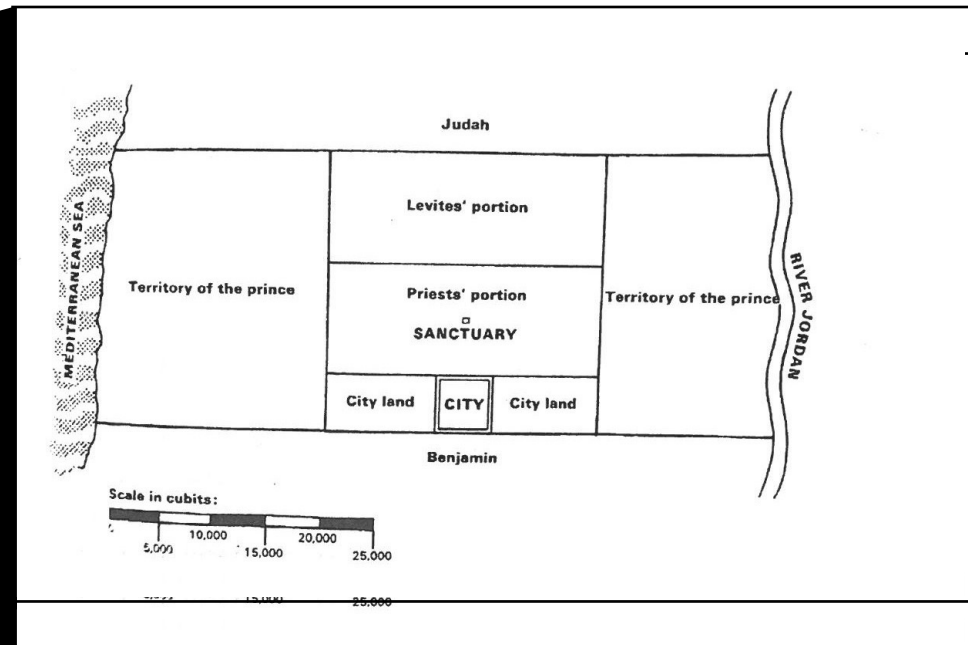
Conclusion

LAND ALLOTMENT IN THE MILLENIUM ACCORDING TO EZEKIEL 48



Ezekiel 48:1-7

- 1 "Now these are the names of the tribes: from the northern extremity, ¹beside the way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, *as far as* Hazar-enan *at* the border of Damascus, toward the north
beside Hamath, running from east to west, Dan, one *portion*.
- 2 Beside the border of Dan, from the east side to the west side, Asher, one *portion*.
- 3 Beside the border of Asher, from the east side to the west side, Naphtali, one *portion*.
- 4 Beside the border of Naphtali, from the east side to the west side, Manasseh, one *portion*.
- 5 Beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, Ephraim, one *portion*.
- 6 Beside the border of Ephraim, from the east side to the west side, Reuben, one *portion*.
- 7 Beside the border of Reuben, from the east side to the west side, Judah, one *portion*.



Handmaid's Tribes Furthest Away (Ezekiel 48)

Tribal Arrangement

Joshua (13-19)

Ezekiel (48:2-27)



Dan	Rachael (Bilhah)
Asher	Leah (Zilpah)
Naphtali	Rachael (Bilhah)
Manasseh	Rachael
Ephraim	Rachael
Reuben	Leah
Judah	Leah
City	Priests Levi Temple Prince
Benjamin	Rachael
Simeon	Leah
Issachar	Leah
Zebulun	Leah
Gad	Leah (Zilpah)

Dan was only Tribe to Reject Land Allotment (Judges 18)

Gad Chose No Inheritance in the Promised Land (Numbers 32)