

We know nothing of the closing years of Ezekiel's life.

**LESSONS:**

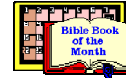
1. God would have us to realize the full significance of His love expressed in the story of the Good Shepherd.
2. From God flows the life-giving stream that makes heavenly healing possible for all men who will drink and live.
3. The teacher and preacher must realize the serious responsibility laid upon them by the Lord.
4. Many of the symbolic visions of Revelation in the New Testament have their origin and explanation in the Old Testament.

**SUPPLEMENT QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the headings of the four divisions of the book of Ezekiel?
2. Thought Question: Can you explain the "credential value" of predictive prophecy?
3. Who do some understand God to be speaking about when he speaks of the "king of Tyre"? (ch. 27-28).
4. What is the message in the vision of the "Valley of Dry Bones"?
5. Where is to be found the ultimate fulfillment of the restoration and the new King and the reception of these blessings in their fullest sense?

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# EZEKIEL – Part 2



**Text: Ezekiel 25 - 48**

**Introduction**

In the first lesson on Ezekiel we studied the prophecies given before 586 BC, the year of Jerusalem's fall and destruction. This covered chapters 1-24. Today we take up with the oracles against foreign nations and the prophecies of Israel's return from captivity.

**Brief Outline of the Book**

- I. Call and vision of Ezekiel, ch. 1-3
- II. Prophecies concerning the sins of Judah, ch. 4-24
- III. Prophecies concerning foreign nations, ch. 25-32
- IV. Certainty of Israel's return from captivity, ch. 33-48

**Today's Study**

**III. CONCERNING FOREIGN NATIONS (Ch. 25-32)**

Many of the prophets of the Old Testament addressed not only Israel and Judah but also the nations surrounding them. To whom does the Lord command Ezekiel to prophesy against in 25:2, 8, 12, and 15?

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. (v. 2) _____  | 2. (v.8) _____   |
| 3. (v. 12) _____ | 4. (v. 15) _____ |

What one geographical fact did all these nations have in common, and how might that make them accountable to God? \_\_\_\_\_

The prophecy regarding **Tyre** is found in **chs. 26-28**. (Read 26:7-11). This prophecy took place when Nebuchadnezzar overcame the city the year after Jerusalem fell.

A further prophecy in vs. 14-21 was fulfilled precisely by Alexander the Great some 250 years later.

**King of Tyre or Satan?** In 28:1-10 we see the reason behind the judgment of God upon Tyre. The passage is addressed to the King of Tyre regarding his *pride* but some believe that God is speaking of the real sinister force behind the king, Satan himself!

The argument is made that God speaks to Satan through the sources that Satan used. In Genesis 3:14-15 God spoke to Satan through the serpent. And in Matthew 16:23 He spoke to the devil through Simon Peter. So, some think, God is here speaking to Satan through the king of Tyre, and describes him before his fallen state, consider:

- “wisdom and beauty” – v. 12
- “you were in Eden” – v. 13
- “anointed cherub that covers” v. 14
- “perfect – til iniquity was found in thee” – v. 15
- “sinned – therefore I cast thee – out of the mountain of God” – (v. 16 (See Luke 10:17-18).
- “thy heart was lifted up because of they beauty” – v. 17 (pride)

Some also think that Isaiah 14, said to be talking of the king of Babylon, is like Ezekiel 28 and applies also to Satan.

I’m not sure if these are illusions to Satan. They are said outright to refer to the King of Tyre (and in Isaiah to the King of Babylon). There may be some similarities between these kings’ pride and fall and the fall of Satan. ( Cf. 1 Timothy 3:6)

#### IV. THE CERTAINTY OF THEIR RETURN – (ch. 33-48)

After telling Ezekiel that he is the watchman of his people in 33:1-9, what does God tell him to tell the people that is a ray of hope for the nation of Judah? (33:11) \_\_\_\_\_

In **ch. 34** the Lord has a message about **Shepherds**. First, vs. 1-10, the false shepherds are described, who did not protect or provide for the sheep (God’s people). Then in vs. 11-31 the **True Shepherd** will restore blessings to the Lord’s flock. It is an obvious reference to the Messiah and we think of John 10:1-14 in the New Testament.

Read Hebrews 13:20 and 1 Peter 5:4; what is the connection? \_\_\_\_\_

The most famous section in the Book of Ezekiel is **ch. 37**, the vision of the Valley of Dry Bones. Ezekiel sees a valley of bones that were very dry, the absolute picture of defeat, the bones of an army lying on the battlefield dry and unburied.

What did the Lord tell Ezekiel to do in Vs. 4-6? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened when Ezekiel did as God told him, and what did it mean? (37:7-14) \_\_\_\_\_

The prophetic vision speaks of Israel’s resurrection from the exile grave in Babylonia and the restoration to their own land. The two kingdoms of Israel and Judah shall be one again, as symbolized by the two sticks which became one (v. 22), and the Messiah, King David, shall rule over them (vv. 24-25). We are reminded that in Christ we are neither Jew nor Greek, bond or free, male or female, but are as one man.

**Ezekiel 38** is another of the chapters that self-made “modern prophets” like to use to build fanciful theories. It deals with the Battle of Gog and Magog, two names that are also mentioned in Revelation 20:7-9. Some premillennialists like to say that 38:2 is a definite reference to Russia, and that Meshech is the present-day Moscow.

The principle mistake that premillennialists make is in failing to see that these prophecies were fulfilled in the return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple and city which can be read in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

In these closing chapters (**38-48**), the prophet refers to the Christian Age ushered in at Pentecost after the Lord’s crucifixion. Note:

1. These things were to occur “in the latter years” (Ezek. 38:8) or “in the latter days” (38:16); this refers to the same time period Joel did that Peter confirmed on Pentecost as referring to the events of the apostles’ day, i.e., the resurrection of Christ and the establishment of the church.

2. Chapters 38-39 use the names of contemporary enemies of the Jews as symbols of the numerous powerful enemies the church would have to face during her existence.

3. Chapters 40-48 describe the church’s perfection and worship; they emphasize God’s presence among his people and the blessings of that nearness (cf. Ezekiel 48:35).

The ultimate spiritual blessings and the new spiritual Temple is the Messianic age and the blessings found in his kingdom the church.

While the Jews were in what seemed to be hopeless captivity, God declared in Ezekiel 39-48 that He would restore them to their own land and set up the kingdom through One greater than David.