



# THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

GOD'S GLORY HAS DEPARTED

# BACKGROUND TO EZEKIEL

- Ezekiel was a priest (1.3) who was deported to Babylon.
  - Ezekiel was taken captive during the second Babylonian campaign against Jerusalem (1.2; cf. 2 Chron. 36).
  - Ezekiel lived amongst the other Jews (1.1; 3.15).
  - Daniel, taken captive earlier, was in the capital (Daniel 1.5f).
  - Jeremiah was forced to remain in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 38.28), before being forced to Egypt after Jerusalem's fall (43.5ff).
- The book begins in the 5th year of Jehoiachin's captivity (Ezekiel 1.2), approximately 592 B.C.



# JERUSALEM ATTACKED

606 — First Babylonian Attack (2 Chron. 36.5ff)  
King Jehoiakim

Daniel among these captives (Dan. 1.1ff)

597 — Second Babylonian Attack (2 Chron. 36.9ff)  
King Jehoiachin

Ezekiel among these captives (Ezek. 1.2)

586 — Third Babylonian Attack (2 Chron. 36.11ff)  
King Zedekiah

Jerusalem destroyed (2 Chron. 36.19)

# JERUSALEM ATTACKED

597 — Second Babylonian Attack (2 Chron. 36.9ff)

King Jehoiachin

Ezekiel among these captives (Ezek. 1.2)

Most of Ezekiel's prophecies fit here

1.2; 8.1; 20.1; 24.1

586 — Third Babylonian Attack (2 Chron. 36.11ff)

King Zedekiah

Jerusalem destroyed (2 Chron. 36.19)

# OVERVIEW OF EZEKIEL

- The name Ezekiel means “God strengthens”.
  - An appropriate name for a prophet who is revealing a depressing message to a rebellious nation.
- Lots of visions and visuals in the book of Ezekiel:
  - Vision of God’s Throne — Ezekiel 1
  - Visual of Jerusalem’s destruction — Ezekiel 4 (BREAD!!)
  - Vision of the Temple — Ezekiel 8
  - Vision of the Dry Bones — Ezekiel 37



# OVERVIEW OF EZEKIEL

- We learn God's reasoning behind the captivity:
  - The captivity was a refiner's fire — Ezekiel 22.17-22
  - The lewdness and harlotry from Egypt would cease — 23.22ff
  - Idolatry would be purged from the returning people — 36.25
- The book can be divided into 3 large sections:
  - Chapters 1-24 — the judgment against Judah
  - Chapters 25-32 — judgments against other nations
  - Chapters 33-48 — restoration and salvation

# JUDGMENT ON NATIONS

## EZEKIEL 25-32

- Why would these nations be judged?
  - Ammon — 25.3-7
  - Edom — 25.12-14
  - Egypt — 29.1-9
    - This is the nation to which some Jews would flee (Jer. 43).
- Notice what nation is absent from this judgment proclamation!
  - There is no mention of Babylon being judged.
  - A message is being sent to rebellious Judah!

# JUDGMENT ON JUDAH

## EZEKIEL 1-24

- Why would Judah be judged?
  - Their hearts were hard and they were rebellious — 3.7,9
  - They became more sinful than surrounding nations — 5.5-7
  - God had been pushed away for idolatry — 6.3-6
  - God was no longer with them — 10.1-4,18
- The results of the judgment against Judah:
  - Judah would suffer great casualties — 5.11-12 (6.8-9)
  - **The people would know God — 6.7,10,13,14 (60x more)**
  - The nation would be refined — 22.20-22



# RESTORATION AND SALVATION

## EZEKIEL 33-48

- God gives a promise of hope through Ezekiel:
  - A promise of life through repentance — 33.10-11
  - God would judge the worthless shepherds — 34.7-10
  - God would bring forth a greater Shepherd — 34.23-31
    - From the lineage of David (23; cf. Matthew 1.1)
    - One from David would rule amongst them (24; cf. Acts 2.29-32)
    - A covenant of peace would be made (25; cf. Hebrews 8.8-13)
    - Freedom and liberty would be given (27; John 8.31f; Galatians 5.1)