

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

### Ezekiel 1-48

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The stage set for the prophet Ezekiel:
- B. The prophets before him:

#### FROM DESOLATION TO RESTORATION:

- A. The call and commission (*Chapters 1-3*):
  - 1. The vision of God's glory (*Ch. 1*): Ezekiel sees a spectacular vision of God's chariot throne by the river Chebar, featuring four living creatures and wheels within wheels.
  - 2. Ezekiel's commission (*Ch. 2-3*): God calls Ezekiel to be a "watchman" for the house of Israel, tasking him to warn the people regardless of whether they listen.
- B. Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem (*Chapters 4-24*):
  - 1. Symbolic acts (*Ch. 4-5*): Ezekiel performs "sign acts", for example he builds models of the siege of Jerusalem and shaves his hair to demonstrate the coming destruction of Jerusalem.
  - 2. The departure of God's glory (*Ch. 8-11*): In a vision, Ezekiel sees the deep-seated idolatry in the temple, which leads to God's glory physically departing from Jerusalem.
  - 3. Prophecies of doom (*Ch. 12-24*): A collection of parables and sermons condemning the nations' rebellion and individual accountability.
- C. Prophecies of judgements against foreign nations (*Chapters 25-32*):
  - 1. Judgment on neighbors (*Ch. 25-28*): God pronounces judgment on surrounding nations like Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, and the wealthy city of Tyre for their pride and treatment of Israel.
  - 2. Judgment on Egypt (*Ch. 29-32*): A specific series of prophecies predicting the downfall of Pharaoh and the pride of Egypt.
- D. Restoration and the new temple (*Chapters 33-48*):
  - 1. The watchman's duty renewed (*Ch. 33*): After receiving news of Jerusalem's fall, Ezekiel's message shifts towards repentance and hope.
  - 2. The good shepherd (*Ch. 34*): God promises to replace Israel's corrupt leaders with a "Good Shepherd" (Messiah) from the line of David.
  - 3. National resurrection (*Ch. 38-39*): Features the famous vision of the "valley of dry bones", symbolizing Israel's spiritual revival and the promise of a "new heart" and new spirit.
  - 4. Defeat of Gog (*Ch. 36-37*): A battle where God defeats all rebellious forces against Israel.
  - 5. The vision of the restored Temple (*Ch. 40-48*): A final, highly detailed vision of a new, perfect Temple, the return of God's glory, and a life-giving river flowing from the sanctuary.

**APPLICATIONS:**

- A. In my darkest moments, God's presence and holiness are still with me.
- B. Our human sin has real consequences, and a holy God cannot ignore rebellion.
- C. God's specialty is bringing life out of death and fixing what is broken in my life.