

Isaiah and Ezekiel

10 Ezekiel 12–24

In the first half of the book, Ezekiel's prophecy centers on God's people who remain in the land. Deportations during the time of Daniel and Ezekiel (not to mention the Assyrian devastation of Israel in Isaiah's time) have not caused Judah to exercise lasting repentance. Chapters 1–24 lead us through the heartbreaking departure of Yahweh's glory from the temple and city up to the edge of Jerusalem's destruction. After an account of Ezekiel's prophetic call, three cycles of sign acts portend Jerusalem's judgment.

1. **Ezekiel 1–3:** Ezekiel is called to be a watchman.
2. **Ezekiel 4–11:** Cycle One: Ezekiel performs and predicts Jerusalem's siege.
3. **Ezekiel 12–22:** Cycle Two: Ezekiel performs and predicts Jerusalem's exile.
 - 3.1. Ezekiel 12–16: Jerusalem's end is near: Prophets and charms will not deliver from adultery's consequences.
 - 3.1.1. 12: Ezekiel packs his bags, demonstrates deportation, and announces the end is near.
 - 3.1.2. 13: Yahweh promises to destroy false prophets and women who entrap with magic charms.
 - 3.1.3. 14: Yahweh diagnoses the hypocrisy of some exiles and reminds them of national responsibility.
 - 3.1.4. 15–16: Israel is a fruitless vine to be burnt, an ungrateful and adulterous bride.
 - 3.2. Ezekiel 17–19: Treachery in national politics merits destruction, but individuals who repent will be saved.

- 3.2.1. 17: Babylon will be Yahweh's instrument of judgment for Zedekiah's treachery with Egypt.
- 3.2.2. 18: Yahweh holds each person accountable, so repent; he does not delight in death.
- 3.2.3. 19: Israel's princes are lions captured and caged; Israel's vine produces no more scepters.
- 3.3. Ezekiel 20–22: Yahweh will save Israel, but first comes fire, sword, and dispersion.
 - 3.3.1. 20:1–44: Israel's history has been plagued by idolatry, but Yahweh will win their heart.
 - 3.3.2. 20:45–49: Fire will come to destroy in the south.
 - 3.3.3. 21: Yahweh's sword will come to Jerusalem from Babylon and afterward to Ammon.
 - 3.3.4. 22: The princes and people have disregarded Yahweh's law; he will scatter them.

4. **Ezekiel 23–24:** Cycle Three: Ezekiel performs and predicts Jerusalem's ruin.

- 4.1. Ezekiel 23: Oholah and Oholibah commit adultery with Assyria and Babylon; they will be judged.
- 4.2. Ezekiel 24: Like widowed Ezekiel, Jerusalem's citizens will lose their city and not mourn.

Isaiah and Ezekiel

11 Ezekiel 25–32

Ezekiel 24 brings us to the brink of Jerusalem's destruction. The city has been set under siege, and the Lord puts Ezekiel on alert to receive a report of the city's destruction. In the meantime, Judah will not be alone in receiving judgment: Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt as well as her closer neighbors will all also receive their due. This section serves several purposes. It reminds Judah that her covenant Lord is sovereign over all the nations. It highlights Yahweh's rights to the obedience of the nations. It heightens the dramatic tension within the book, forcing the reader to wait for the conclusion and fulfillment of Ezekiel's sign acts.

1. Ezekiel 25: Yahweh destroys Judah's immediate neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia.
 - 1.1. 25:1–7: Because Ammon gloated over Jerusalem's destruction, Yahweh will hand them over to foreigners.
 - 1.2. 25:8–11: Because Moab treated Judah with contempt, Yahweh will inflict punishment on them.
 - 1.3. 25:12–14: Because Edom was unjust in retribution on Judah, Yahweh takes vengeance on them.
 - 1.4. 25:15–17: Because Philistia sought vengeance with malice, Yahweh will wipe them out.
2. Ezekiel 26–28: Yahweh sinks the Phoenician seafaring city-states: Tyre and Sidon.
 - 2.1. 26: Because Tyre sought profit from Jerusalem's loss, nations will pull down her towers.
 - 2.2. 27: Yahweh will sink Tyre like a shipwreck in the heart of the sea.
 - 2.3. 28:1–19: The ruler of Tyre is slain like a mortal despite his divine pretensions.

- 2.4. 28:20–26: Yahweh will display his glory by inflicting punishment on Sidon, giving Israel peace.

3. Ezekiel 29–32: Yahweh vanquishes Egypt and Pharaoh.

- 3.1. 29: Yahweh will leave that Nile monster Pharaoh to dry in the desert.
- 3.2. 30: Yahweh's day will come with a sword against Egypt, her idols and princes.
- 3.3. 31: As Yahweh destroyed resplendent Assyria, so shall he destroy Egypt.
- 3.4. 32: Nations mourn the loss of Egypt; Pharaoh and his hordes will die humiliated.

Isaiah and Ezekiel

12 Ezekiel 33–39

The destruction of Jerusalem signals the end of God's judgment against the nation. His departure and its inevitable consequence, the collapse of the capital, provide the transition to a series of oracles that are more hopeful for Israel.

This hope awaits fulfillment even today. The Jewish nation has experienced centuries of exile and humiliation at the hands of the nations. These chapters of Ezekiel make clear that even in the final days before the kingdom, this enmity will continue until Yahweh delivers his people from the nations, and, more importantly, from their own hardheartedness and deadness to the things of God. Only after these acts of deliverance are complete will he dwell again with his people (40–48).

1. Ezekiel 33: Yahweh reprises Ezekiel's call as a watchman; Jerusalem falls.
 - 1.1. 33:1–20: Watchman Ezekiel reports Yahweh's view of the repentant wicked vs. the lapsed righteous.
 - 1.2. 33:21–29: Sinful Jerusalem has fallen; they will not possess the land.
 - 1.3. 33:30–33: The exiles are not much better off: their superficiality does not fool Yahweh.
2. Ezekiel 34–39: Yahweh delivers Judah from her national enemies and from her unclean hardheartedness.
 - 2.1. 34: Yahweh delivers his flock, Israel, from her wicked shepherds and shepherds them himself.
 - 2.2. 35:1–36:15: When the world rejoices, Edom and all those who harbor hostility, are desolate.

- 2.3. 36:16–38: Yahweh will cleanse Israel from her idolatry and restore her glory and blessedness.
- 2.4. 37: Yahweh will assemble Israel, grant them life, and unite them under one king.
- 2.5. 38–39: Though Gog rises to capture vulnerable Israel, Yahweh gives Gog a burial place.