

# Ezekiel

Major Prophets · Biblical Prophets

A priest among the exiles, Ezekiel son of Buzi prophesied from Babylon after being carried captive with King Jehoiachin in the second deportation of 597 BC. His prophetic ministry commenced in the fifth year of exile (593 BC) by the river Chebar, where the heavens opened and he saw visions of God—the divine chariot-throne borne by cherubim, gleaming like beryl, moving with wheels within wheels full of eyes, attended by living creatures with faces of man, lion, ox, and eagle.

Called repeatedly 'son of man' (over ninety times), emphasizing his humanity before divine majesty, Ezekiel received both auditory and visionary revelations of extraordinary symbolic complexity. His ministry employed dramatic enacted prophecies: lying on his left side 390 days for Israel's iniquity and his right side 40 days for Judah's, shaving his head and beard and dividing the hair to symbolize Jerusalem's fate, cooking food over dung, digging through a wall at night, and remaining mute except when prophesying.

These symbolic actions, combined with apocalyptic visions and detailed allegories, made visible the invisible spiritual realities behind historical events. Ezekiel's message balanced judgment and hope—declaring Jerusalem's certain destruction while among exiles who refused to believe it, then proclaiming restoration when despair threatened to overwhelm survivors.

His vision of the valley of dry bones becoming a living army dramatizes Israel's future resurrection, while chapters 40-48's detailed temple vision depicts millennial worship. He emphasized individual responsibility, declaring that the soul that sins shall die, while his theology of God's glory departing

from and returning to the temple structures the book's movement from judgment to restoration.

**Note:** Ezekiel's wife died on the day Babylon began Jerusalem's siege, and God commanded him not to mourn publicly, making his restrained grief a sign to the exiles (24:15-27). His prophecies against Tyre and Egypt demonstrate God's sovereignty over Gentile nations. The phrase 'they shall know that I am the LORD' appears over sixty times, revealing God's central purpose in all His dealings—the vindication of His holy name. His chariot vision inspired Jewish mystical speculation, while Revelation draws heavily on his imagery.

## Key Verses

### **Ezekiel 1:1**

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

### **Ezekiel 1:28**

As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

### **Ezekiel 18:20**

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

### **Ezekiel 36:26**

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

### **Ezekiel 37:3**

And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

### **Ezekiel 37:14**

And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

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