

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the time frame and background of Ezekiel's prophecy.
2. Visualize the visions experienced by Ezekiel.

Introduction:

Nothing is known of Ezekiel's life apart from what is contained in this book. Ezekiel is a priest who is taken captive in 597 B.C., when the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, captured Jerusalem after a brief siege. The young king Jehoiachin and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths were exiled with Ezekiel (2 Kings 24:14). Only the poorest people were left in Jerusalem to whom Jeremiah prophesies. In the fifth year of the exile (593 B.C.), the call of God came to Ezekiel to exercise a prophetic ministry to the house of Israel. The mission of Ezekiel was to save from complete apostasy the group in Babylon that had been carried away. Ezekiel also had the challenge of convincing the captives that Jerusalem would be destroyed and that they were not going to be released from captivity shortly. Thus, from the plains of Babylon, Ezekiel begins his prophecy. Study the survey chart carefully noticing the main divisions in the book. To justify the division at chapter 25, read Ezekiel 24:1-2 and compare it to 2 Kings 25:1. Why is this an important division in the book?

Much of the book of Ezekiel is considered apocalyptic literature. Daniel, Zechariah, and Revelation also have this kind of literature. Explain the meaning and purpose of this literature.

Special Note:

Because the intent of this booklet is to survey the major prophets, the lesson material will not cover each chapter of the book in detail. Instead, the lesson will have the student survey the theme of the chapters and then in-depth study will be placed on selected texts in Ezekiel that are important and/or give an good representation for the chapter. Though this booklet will not cover each passage in Ezekiel, the student is encouraged to study the whole book of Ezekiel.

Selected In-depth Text:

1:1-28 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Visualize what Ezekiel saw in this chapter.)

1. What is the purpose for the images of the throne and glory of God in this chapter?

2. What characteristics of God can be noticed from the images given in this chapter?

Selected In-depth Text:

2:1-10 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Point of Interest:

In this chapter, Ezekiel is referred to as the “son of man” in most translations. The NRSV however translates this word “mortal.” The phrase “son of man” is a Hebraism which emphasizes Ezekiel’s insignificance. Consider both renderings and its use over 90 times in this book.

4. Consider why the Lord would refer to His prophet Ezekiel in this manner. Contrast this to the call of the prophet Jeremiah found in Jeremiah 1:8-10.
5. In understanding the meaning “son of man” with reference to Ezekiel, is there any significance that Jesus calls Himself the “son of man?”

Life Application:

6. What lesson can we learn from this chapter about teaching people today?

Selected In-Depth Text:

3:1-15 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. a. Consider 3:1-3. Why is Ezekiel to eat the scroll? Why does the scroll taste sweet as honey?

Life Application:

b. What lesson is there for us in this imagery?

8. Explain Ezekiel's actions and emotions in 3:15.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. The vision of the throne of God (chapter 1)
2. "He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey." (3:3)
3. "...all of the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart." (3:7)

3:16-5:17

EZEKIEL

Lesson 2

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the meaning of Ezekiel's symbolic actions.

Selected In-Depth Text:

3:16-27 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Applications:

1. Notice 3:16-21.
 - a. What applications can we make to ourselves from this passage? (Notice also 1 Peter 3:15; Matt. 28:19-20)

- b. How does this passage apply to the following groups:
--Elders (Heb. 13:17; Tit. 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:1-5):

--Preachers (1 Tim. 4:6; 5:19-21; 2 Tim. 4:1-5):

2. Explain the situation Ezekiel is put in as he prepared to preach in 3:22-27.

Selected In-Depth Text:

4:1-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. Describe the three symbolic actions Ezekiel is commanded to complete and explain the meaning of these actions.

Selected In-Depth Text:

5:1-17 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. Read the following scriptures: Job 1:20; Lev. 21:5; 2 Sam. 10:4-5; Isa. 15:2. What do you think it meant to the exiles to see the head and beard of Ezekiel shaved?

5. Noticing 5:3, explain the image of binding a small number of hairs in his garment.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “ Because you have not warned them...their blood I will require at your hand.” (3:20).
2. The symbolic actions of Ezekiel representing the destruction of Jerusalem.

6:1-9:11

EZEKIEL

Lesson 3

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Notice the various abominations occurring in Jerusalem.
2. Visualize the description of the impending disaster.

Selected In-Depth Text:

6:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. The phrase in 6:7 “then you shall know that I am the Lord” is used 72 times in the book. How would the siege prove this statement to the exiles?
2. Explain the meaning of the phrase "pound your fists and stamp your feet" in 6:11.

Selected In-Depth Text:

7:1-27 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. Explain the language of 7:13-14.

4. Explain the phrase in 7:16 “they shall be found on the mountains.”

5. Explain the phrase in 7:23 “make a chain.”

Selected In-Depth Text:

8:1-18 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

6. What lessons can we learn from 8:12-13?

7. What implications are made by the phrase in 8:16 “with their backs to the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east?”

Selected In-Depth Text:

9:1-11 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

8. Explain the mark on the forehead in 9:4.

9. Which verse indicates that God is leaving the city?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "Disaster after disaster! See, it comes." (7:5)
2. The abominations taking place in the temple of the Lord. (chapter 8)

10:1-13:23

EZEKIEL

Lesson 4

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the symbolic actions of Ezekiel.
2. Notice the visions of the glory of God leaving the temple.

Selected In-Depth Text:

10:1-22 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Explain what is happening in the image found in 10:2. What does it mean?

2. Which verses show God departing the city?

Selected In-Depth Text:

11:1-25 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. Explain the quote given by the wicked counsel in 11:3.

4. Explain what the people of Jerusalem were saying and God's reply in 11:15-16.

5. Which verses show God departing? Where is God now? (Also read Matt. 23:37-39)

Selected In-Depth Text:

12:1-28 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. Why does God tell Ezekiel to display his message by moving baggage from one place to another?

7. Who is the prince of Jerusalem in 12:10? Explain how he will not see the land of the Chaldeans though he will die there.

8. Explain the meaning "the proverb of yours about the land of Israel" in 12:22. How did the Lord correct this proverb?

Selected In-Depth Text:

13:1-23 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

9. How were the false prophets of Judah like "jackals among ruins?" (NRSV, NIV)

10. What are the “daughters of your people who prophesy” accused of in 13:17-23?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “The inhabited cities shall be laid waste, and the land shall become a desolation; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” (12:20)
2. “Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.” (11:22)

14:1-17:24

EZEKIEL

Lesson 5

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand what were the sins of the people.
2. Notice the messianic prophecy.
3. Visualize the coming destruction upon Jerusalem.

14:1-11 Write down the main point of this passage.

Selected In-Depth Text:

14:12-23 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

1. What lessons can we learn from this passage?

Selected In-Depth Text:

15:1-8 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Selected In-Depth Text:

16:1-63 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Be able to explain the various figures used in this chapter.)

2. Notice 16:3. What is meant by the phrase, “your father was an Amorite, and your mother a Hittite?”

Life Applications:

3. What lessons can we learn from 16:1-19?

4. What lessons can we learn from 16:43-52?

Selected In-Depth Text:

17:1-24 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

5. Explain the details of the parable of the two eagles and the meaning of each of the figures in the parable.
6. Explain the messianic prophecy in 17:22-24.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “Because you have not remembered the days of your youth, but have enraged me with all these things; therefore I have returned your deeds upon your head, says the Lord God.” (16:43)
2. “Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” (15:6)

18:1-21:32

EZEKIEL

Lesson 6

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the people’s proverb and the error of it. Notice the imagery of destruction upon Jerusalem.

Selected In-Depth Text:

18:1-32 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Explain the meaning of the proverb in 18:2.
2. Consider what the Lord said in Exodus 20:5. How was the people’s proverb in 18:2 incorrect in light of Exodus 20:5?

Life Application:

3. What applications can we make from this chapter?

Selected In-Depth Text:

19:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. Explain the meaning of the parable of the lioness in 19:1-9.

5. Explain the meaning of the parable of the vine in 19:10-14.

20:1-49 Write down the main point of this passage.

Selected In-Depth Text:

21:1-32 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. Explain the meaning of the phrase in 21:21, “he shakes the arrows, he consults the images, he looks at the liver.”

7. Who is being spoken of in 21:25-27?

Life Application:

8. What applications can we make from chapters 19 and 21?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "...it is only the person who sins that shall die." (18:4)
2. And all flesh shall know that I the Lord have drawn my sword out of its sheath; it shall not be sheathed again." (21:5)

22:1-24:27

EZEKIEL

Lesson 7

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the imagery of the boiling pot and Oholibah.
2. Notice the personal effects of Ezekiel's ministry upon himself.

Selected In-Depth Text:

22:1-31 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Explain the implications of 22:18-22.

Life Application:

2. What important lessons can we learn from 22:26?

Selected In-Depth Text:

23:1-49 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. What are the sins of Jerusalem that the Lord lists?

Selected In-Depth Text:

24:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. What is meant by the figure in 24:7-8?
5. Explain the meaning of 24:11-13, especially the phrase in verse 12, "Its thick rust does not depart. To the fire with its rust!" (NRSV)

Selected In-Depth Text:

24:15-27 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

REVEALING FACT:

In the funeral rites of the ancient Near East, the mourner normally would tear his garments and put on sackcloth. He would remove his shoes and headdress, shave his head, and put earth on his head. The lower part of the face (from the mustache down) would be covered with a veil of some sort. The mourner would roll his head or his whole body in dust and then lie, or sit, among a heap of ashes. He would fast for a day, after which friends would bring "mourning bread." Funeral lamentations repeated shrill cries would be made by the family, relatives, and professional mourners.

--Expositor's Bible Commentary

6. a. What hardships is Ezekiel going to go through for the Lord?

Life Application:

- b. What lesson can we learn from what Ezekiel went through?

7. When would Ezekiel be able to speak again?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes; yet you shall not mourn or weep." (24:16)
2. "I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath." (22:31)

25:1-29:21

EZEKIEL

Lesson 8

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

- 1 Notice the prophecies against the surrounding nations.

25:1-17 Write down the main point of this chapter.

Selected In-Depth Text:

26:1-21 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Point of Interest:

The work of this destruction was begun by Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 7-21), who besieged the city, finally destroying the mainland city, but was unable to take the island fortress just off the

mainland. The city was subdued for seventy years, the period of the Babylonian empire, to be revived thereafter (Isa. 23:15-17). The final destruction came over two hundred years later when Alexander of Macedonia besieged the city, destroyed it, and took the stones to build a causeway to the island fortress. He then besieged and destroyed it, thus fulfilling the prophecies of the various prophets. The destruction of Tyre, the use of her stones to build the causeway, and the fishermen's nets seen there today, all testify to the fact that God spoke through the prophets, declaring these things." --Hailey's Comments 1

27:1-36 Write down the main point of this chapter.

28:1-19 Write down the main point of this chapter.

Selected In-Depth Text:

28:20-26 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Contrast the prophecy against Tyre and the prophecy against Sidon.

Selected In-Depth Text:

29:1-21 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. Explain the meaning of 29:4-5.
3. What prophecies against Egypt do you see being fulfilled to this day?
4. Explain 29:18, "every head was made bald and every shoulder was rubbed bare."

MAIN POINT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. Key phrase of the lesson: "Then you shall know that I am the Lord," occurring 12 times in these chapters (25:7, 25:11, 25:14, 25:17, 26:6, 28:23, 28:24, 28:26, 29:6, 29:9)

30:1-33:33

EZEKIEL

Lesson 9

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Examine the warning to Ezekiel and the people.
2. Witness the destruction of Jerusalem and the oracle against the survivors.

30:1-19 Write down the main point of this passage.

30:20-26 Write down the main point of this passage.—

Selected In-Depth Text: 31:1-18 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Who is Egypt compared to and why?
2. Explain the figure in 31:16-17.

32:1-16 Write down the main point of this passage.

3. Explain the imagery given in 32:7-8.

32:17-32 Write down the main point of this passage.

Life Application:

3. After reading of the judgments pronounced on Egypt, do you see why God told the remnant of Judah in the book of Jeremiah not to go to Egypt? What does this tell us about the importance of trusting God?

Selected In-Depth Text:

33:1-9 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

4. What lessons can we learn from this passage?

Selected In-Depth Text:

33:10-20 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

5. What lessons can we learn from 33:12-16?
6. Explain the complaint of the people in 33:17-20.

Selected In-Depth Text:

33:21-33 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. Explain the meaning of the oracle against the survivors in Judah in 33:27-29.

Life Application:

8. What lessons can we learn from 33:30-33?

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. "The city has fallen." (33:21)
2. "Therefore thus says the Lord God: I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, both the strong arm and the one that was broken; and I will make the sword fall from his hand." (30:22)

34:1-37:28

EZEKIEL

Lesson 10

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Notice the Messianic prophecies.
2. Notice the prophecies of blessing and renewal upon Israel.

Selected In-Depth Text:

34:1-10 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. What can we learn about the work of New Testament shepherds (elders) from this passage?

Selected In-Depth Text:

34:11-22 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Life Application:

2. Read Psalm 23 and compare it with 34:11-16. What images and ideas is the Lord trying to convey to us? What does this mean in your life?

Selected In-Depth Text:

34:23-31 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. What New Testament passage is parallel to this chapter on shepherds, especially verse 23?

35:1-15 Write down the main point of this chapter.

4. Who are the people that this prophecy is against?

36:1-15 Write down the main point of this passage.

36:16-38 Write down the main point of this passage.

Life Application:

5. What lesson can we learn from 36:20?

Selected In-Depth Text:

37:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

6. What is the meaning of the vision in 37:1-14? What do the bones represent? What is the significance of the bones being very dry?

Selected In-Depth Text:

37:15-28 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

7. What is the meaning of the vision of the two sticks?
8. The phrase “covenant of peace” was spoken of in 34:25. Here the “covenant of peace” is referred to in 37:26. Explain what the “covenant of peace” is referring to from the context of these passages.

MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

1. “They shall know that I am the Lord.” (34:30; 35:4,9,15; 36:11,38; 37:13,14)
2. “My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (37:27)

38:1-43:27

EZEKIEL

Lesson 11

GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Judgment upon Gog of Magog.
2. The construction of the temple and the return of the Lord.

38:1-16 Write down the main point of this passage.

Explanatory Point:

Various solutions have been offered as to who Gog refers to. Two major views are held. One view is that the name "is applied to no particular individual, but stands for the prince of the hosts of Israel's enemies. Thus Gog symbolizes all the northern heathen peoples who are enemies of God's people. The other view is that Gog is a person from the region of Magog who is the prince, the chief ruler, over the geographic areas or countries located south of the Black and Caspian seas. Magog, a descendant of Japheth in the table of nations (Gen. 10:2), is identified by Josephus as the land of the Scythians, a mountainous region around the Black and Caspian seas. This position is generally accepted by most scholars.

38:17-23 Write down the main point of this passage.

39:1-20 Write down the main point of this passage.

39:21-29 Write down the main point of this passage.

40:1-42:20 Write down the main point of these chapters.

1. In what year does chapter 40 begin? _____ B.C.
2. Notice 42:13-20. How are these verses different from the actions of the previous priests (22:26)?
3. What is the purpose for the elaborate descriptions of the temple and the land in these chapters?

Selected In-Depth Text:

43:1-12 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found

interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

4. What is the significance of 43:1-5 to the theme of the whole book?

MAIN POINT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

“The glory of the Lord entered the temple...and filled the temple.”(43:4-5)

44:1-48:35

EZEKIEL

Lesson 12

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

1. Visualize the splendor of the new land and new temple.

Selected In-Depth Text:

44:1-14 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. Explain the meaning of 44:1-3.

Life Application:

2. What applications can we make from the Lord’s statements in 44:7 and 44:9?

44:15-31 Write down the main point of this passage.

45:1-25 Write down the main point of this chapter.

46:1-24 Write down the main point of this chapter.

Selected In-Depth Text:

47:1-12 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

3. Compare and contrast the rivers spoken of in Revelation 22:1-2 and Genesis 2:8-10 to the water flowing from the temple in Ezekiel 47:1-12.

4. Explain the meaning of the images of the water flowing from the temple.

47:13-23 Write down the main point of this passage.

48:1-35 Write down the main point of this chapter.

Life Application:

5. After studying chapters 44-48, what applications can we make to our lives today?

MAIN POINT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON:

“No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary.” (44:9)