

## Key to Ezekiel

### 1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Ezekiel (means "GOD will strengthen"), a priest-prophet carried to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (597 B.C.); time of ministry, 26 years (593-567 B.C.); key verses, 3:17-19; key thought, visions and predictions.

### 2. THEME:

Ezekiel was part of the company of captives taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C., ten years before the destruction of Jerusalem (II Chronicles 36:6, 7). He was placed in a Jewish community by the river Chebar. There he ministered to the exiles who expected momentarily to be allowed to return. His first predictions concerned the destruction of Jerusalem. Following this unhappy event, he consoled and encouraged the captives by predictions of eventual restoration and future blessings. His book is largely taken up with visions, symbolical illustrations, prophecies about surrounding nations, and messianic predictions.

### 3. OUTLINE:

Predictions about Jerusalem (1-24)  
Predictions about the Gentile nations (25-32, 35)  
Predictions about coming restoration (33-48)

### 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Message directed to the "**house of Israel**" calling attention to the coming restored nation of 12 tribes (12:6, 10; 24:24, 27).

Writing is vigorous and forceful, style vivid and graphic. His visions, object lessons, symbolic actions (mainly the latter) were extremely painful and difficult (i.e., dumbness, lying in one position for a year, eating loathsome food).

The phrase "**they shall know that I am the LORD**" is found 24 times. Ezekiel is described as "son of man" 93 times.

### 5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

Although Ezekiel did not mention Jeremiah, or even his letter to the exiles (Jeremiah 29), he prophesied ten years concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. Then following the fulfillment, changed to surrounding nations and the coming time of restoration.

As does Isaiah he refers to the fall of Satan in 28:11-19.

Prophecies concerning Tyre were made in detail and have been fulfilled completely in campaigns of Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great.

As a priest, Ezekiel witnessed the desecration and desolation of the temple and looked forward past the temples of Nehemiah and Herod to the marvelous edifice of the millennium.

#### **6. INTERESTING FEATURES:**

Much of Ezekiel's utterances remain yet to be fulfilled.

The "Plant of Renown" (34:29) evidently refers to the "Branch" (Isaiah 11:1).

The sins of Judah (Israel) are thoroughly pictured and denounced as GOD showed why the exile had to take place.

#### **7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:**

If you keep in mind these three points: Israel's grievous sins; GOD's inexorable judgment; GOD's unfailing promises of blessing, you will easily understand Ezekiel's book.

~ end of Ezekiel ~

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