

Ezekiel

Introduction and Overview

“You will know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 6:7

Ezekiel is a priest and a prophet, who ministers during the darkest days of Judah’s history: the seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity. With his fellow Hebrews, he was exiled to Babylon during the Babylonian captivity, and he prophesied to the other captives in Chaldea (the region where the city of Babylon is located).

He was deported in 597 BC, and began his prophetic ministry four years later, and continued his ministry for about 20 years.

He was carried to Babylon before the final assault on Jerusalem. Ezekiel uses prophecies, parables, signs, and symbols to dramatize God’s message to His exiled people.

Ezekiel’s name means, “God strengthens” or “Strengthened by God.”

He is the son of Buzi (1:3), and he had a wife who died as a sign to Judah when Nebuchadnezzar began his final siege on Jerusalem.

His prophetic ministry shows a priestly emphasis in his concern with the temple, priesthood, sacrifices, and Shekinah glory of God.

The Book of Ezekiel can be divided into four sections containing a particular theme:

- Chapters 1-24 - Israel’s captivity, Jerusalem’s destruction, and the reasons for it.
- Chapters 25-32 – Judgment upon the nations for their treatment of Israel.
- Chapters 33-39 – Israel in the last days before the Messiah’s return.
- Chapters 40-48 – The future millennial temple and reign of Messiah.

Notes above adapted from Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, and the NKJV Open Bible.

The Time of Ezekiel

“Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages. First in 605 B.C., he overcame Jehoiakim and carried off key hostages including Daniel and his friends. Second, in 597 B.C., the rebellion of Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin brought further punishment; and Nebuchadnezzar made Jerusalem submit a second time. He carried off ten thousand hostages including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel. Third, in 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city after a long siege and disrupted Judah.

If “thirtieth year” in chapter 1 verse 1 refers to Ezekiel’s age, he was twenty-five years old when he was taken to Babylon and thirty years old when he received his prophetic commission (1:2,3). This means he was about seventeen when Daniel was deported in 605 B.C., so that Ezekiel and Daniel were about the same age. Both men were about 20 years younger than Jeremiah who was ministering in Jerusalem. According to this chronology, Ezekiel was born in 622 B.C.; deported to Babylon in 597 B.C.; prophesied from 592 B.C. to at least 570 B.C. and died about 560 B.C. Thus, he overlapped the end of Jeremiah’s ministry and the beginning of Daniel’s ministry. By the time Ezekiel arrived in Babylon, Daniel was already well known; and he is mentioned three times in Ezekiel’s prophecy (14:14, 20; 28:3)

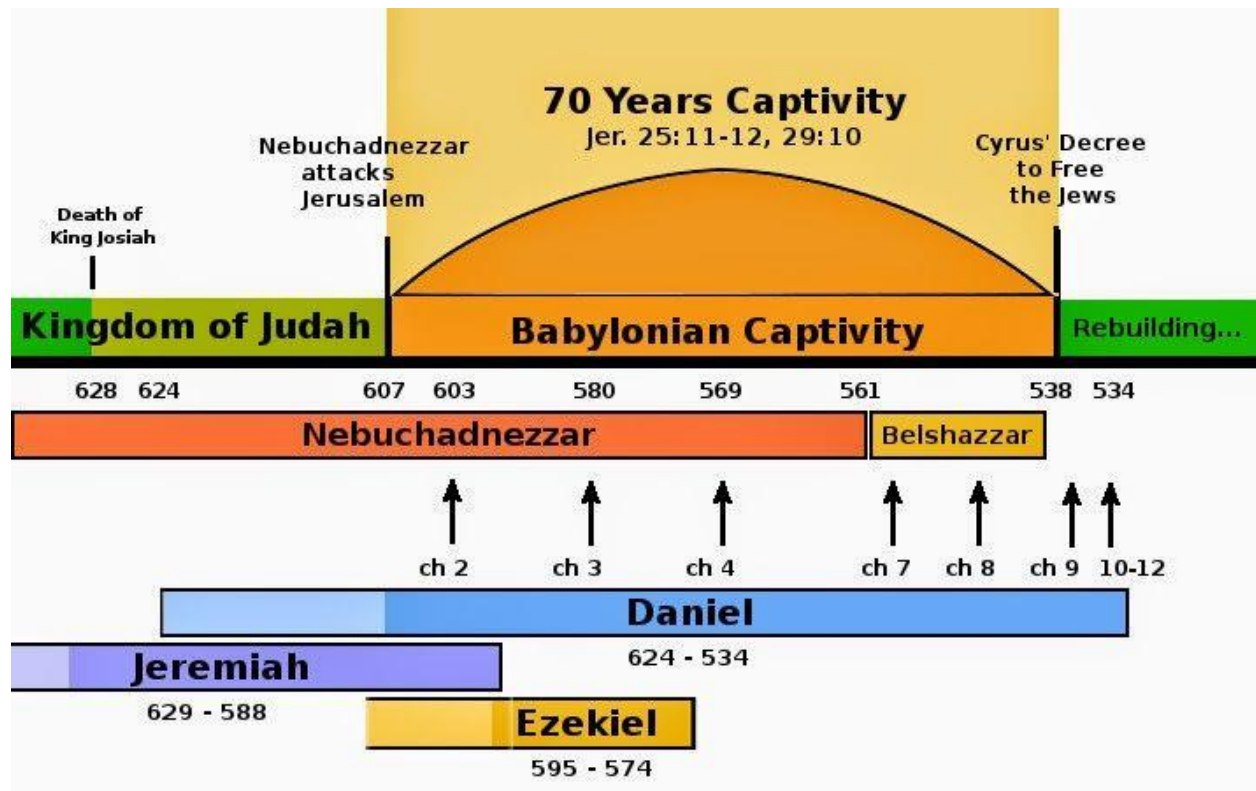
Ezekiel’s Babylonian home was at Tel Abib, the principal colony of Jewish exiles along the River Chebar, Nebuchadnezzar’s ‘Grand Canal’ (1:1; 3:15, 23).

From 592 to 586 B.C., Ezekiel found it necessary to convince the disbelieving Jewish exiles that there was no hope of immediate deliverance. But it was not until they heard that Jerusalem was destroyed that their false hopes of returning were abandoned. Ezekiel no doubt wrote this book shortly after the incidents recorded in it occurred. His active ministry lasted for at least 22 years (1:2; 29:17), and his book was probably completed by 565 B.C.” The NKJV, Open Bible, Commentary, p. 803.

Bible Timeline

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|--------|--|-----------------|
| 593 BC | Ezekiel's Prophecy at Chebar | Ezekiel 1 |
| 593 BC | Ezekiel's Calling and Instruction | Ezekiel 2 |
| 593 BC | Ezekiel Eats the Scroll | Ezekiel 3 |
| 593 BC | Ezekiel Foretells Siege of Jerusalem | Ezekiel 4, 5 |
| 593 BC | Ezekiel's Vision of the End | Ezekiel 6, 7 |
| 592 BC | Ezekiel's First Temple Vision | Ezekiel 8 - 19 |
| 591 BC | Ezekiel Sees God Refuse the Elders | Ezekiel 20 |
| 591 BC | Ezekiel Prophecies against Jerusalem | Ezekiel 21, 22 |
| 591 BC | Ezekiel Prophecies against two Sisters | Ezekiel 23 |
| 588 BC | Siege of Jerusalem Begins | Ezekiel 24 |
| 587 BC | God's Vengeance on Ammon and Edom | Ezekiel 25 |
| 586 BC | Ezekiel Pronounces Judgment on Tyre | Ezekiel 26 - 28 |
| 586 BC | Ezekiel Prophecies against Egypt | Ezekiel 29 - 32 |
| 586 BC | Ezekiel the Watchman | Ezekiel 33 |
| 585 BC | Ezekiel Explains Jerusalem's Fall | Ezekiel 33:21 |
| 585 BC | Ezekiel Foresees Reproof and Restoration | Ezekiel 34-36 |
| 585 BC | Ezekiel Sees Resurrection of Dry Bones | Ezekiel 37 |
| 585 BC | Ezekiel Sees Future battle | Ezekiel 38 |
| 585 BC | Ezekiel Sees God's judgment upon Gog | Ezekiel 39 |
| 573 BC | Ezekiel's Second Temple Vision | Ezekiel 40 - 48 |

<https://biblehub.com/timeline/ezekiel/1.htm>



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The Bible Project Video

Chapters 1-33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-CIPu1nko8>

Chapters 34-38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDeCWW_Bnyw