

Ezekiel
(Major Prophet)

Summary

Ezekiel was a priest, but served as a Jewish “street preacher.” The book of Ezekiel chronicles this prophet’s life and ministry. The book of Ezekiel records the prophet’s message to the people of the southern kingdom of Judah, now incarcerated in Babylon because of their rebellion against God. The theme of the book is the glory of God, which departed from the temple in Jerusalem because of the people’s sin. The prophet wanted God’s people to know that as bad as things were during their captivity, God still had a plan and would keep His covenant promises despite their rebellion and the consequences they were enduring. Ezekiel thus called on the people to have faith in God even in the discipline of captivity. He also foretold that the glory of God would return when the Messiah reigns.

Author and Date:

Ezekiel, son of Buzi, a Zadokite Priest. 571 BC

Audience/ Setting:

Jews in captivity, in Babylon. Ezekiel was the younger contemporary of Jeremiah. He prophesied to those already exiled in Babylonia.

Purpose:

Announce God’s judgement on Israel and other nations; to foretell the eventual salvation of God’s people.

Key People:

Ezekiel; Israel leaders; people in exile; Ezekiel’s wife; Nebuchadnezzar; and “the prince”

Key Places:

Jerusalem, Babylon, and Egypt.

References

NLT Application Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible