

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #41

EZEKIEL 1-24

10-08-23

Monday - Ezekiel 1-6

Wednesday - Ezekiel 13-16

Friday - Ezekiel 21-24

Tuesday - Ezekiel 7-12

Thursday - Ezekiel 17-20

Ezekiel is one of the works of the major prophets. It is a book of prophecy much like Revelation of the New Testament because of its apocalyptic or symbolic language. It was written primarily for the captives of Judah while in Babylon but also has messages of judgment from God to a number of other nations.

The author is Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi. He was among those Jews that were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon in the second deportation in 597 B.C.. Based on Ezekiel 1:1 we understand he was 30 years old when the Lord began to communicate to him through visions. He tells us that took place in the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity which would have been the year 592 B.C. This would also mean that Ezekiel was 25 years old when he was taken to Babylon. The last date he mentions (29:17) appears to be 27 years after Jehoiachin was first captured in 597 B.C. making it 570 B.C. Therefore he prophesied for at about 22 years and his book could not have been written before 570 B.C.

The message of the book is that Judah was in bondage as punishment by God for the sin that she had committed. At the time that Ezekiel began his work the city of Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed and many false prophets were claiming that Judah's captivity would not be long and she would soon be set free. Ezekiel's prediction of the siege of Jerusalem in chapter four was ignored by the people but none the less fulfilled in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar. In the latter part of the book Ezekiel gave hope to his people because they would eventually be restored to their land and the ultimate restoration of God's people take place in the new kingdom of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

An outline for Ezekiel:

- 1.) Ezekiel called by God 1-3
- 2.) Judgment against Judah 4-24
- 3.) Judgment against the Gentiles 25-32
- 4.) Restoration of Israel 33-48

Questions for Ezekiel 1-24:

- 1.) During what year of what king's exile did the word of the Lord come to Ezekiel in 1:2-3?
- 2.) In 3:17 what was Ezekiel appointed to be and what was he instructed to do?
- 3.) What was Ezekiel told to do to bear the sins of Judah in 4:6?
- 4.) In 18:2 what proverb recorded there was Israel using to refer to their own situation?

5.) What did the Lord have no pleasure in and therefore what did He tell Israel to do in 18:32?

Answers to questions for Week #40– Jeremiah 41-52 and Lamentations:

1.) Gedaliah.

2.) Egypt.

3.) The first to devour them was the king of Assyria and the last one to break their bones was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

4.) The Medes will be used to destroy Babylon.

5.) They saw for them false and foolish visions and false and misleading oracles.