

ANCHOR POINTS

To make sense of all the craziness, these four passages emphasize the sometimes buried message that God is using Ezekiel to get across. Everything anchors to them.

1. There is always a _____ (11:13-25)
2. The _____ of God is _____ (16:59-63)
3. _____ brings the _____ to the mountain (20:39-44)
4. God _____ the _____ (34:11-31, 36:22-37)

THE LORD IS THERE (48:35)

THE BIG IDEA:

God's purpose, even in _____ is our _____.

EXODUS - they were _____ so they could be _____.

EZEKIEL - they were _____ so they could be _____.

CHRIST - we must _____ so that we may _____.

EZEKIEL

**Can someone please
explain this book?**



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BACKGROUND

Ezekiel is set in the early Exile Period. The prophet was born during the reign of Josiah, the last good king of Judah (r. 640-609 BC). The prophecies begin around 594-593 BC (1:2) when Judah was already dominated by Babylon, and just a handful of years before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple (586 BC). Ezekiel sees visions, receives prophecies and composes laments for about 20 years.

Ezekiel was among the nobles who had been taken into exile around 598 BC, and he was roughly thirty years old when he began to see the prophetic visions. He was a younger contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah, who was in Jerusalem when it fell, and was slightly older than Daniel, who probably went into exile as a young man shortly before Ezekiel begins seeing his visions.

CHRONOLOGY

The material in Ezekiel is not given chronologically. It is generally grouped by content. For example, the prophecies against Egypt come both before and after the fall of Jerusalem but are grouped together in chapters 29-32. Here are the dates provided in the text and a rough date.

Reference	Y/M/D	Event	Date (BC)
1:2	5/4/5	Ezekiel's Call	Summer 593
8:1	6/6/5	Jerusalem Abandoned	Autumn 592
20:1	7/5/10	The Elders Ask Ezekiel for a Vision	Summer 591
24:1	9/10/10	Siege of Jerusalem Begins	Winter 587
29:1	10/10/12	First Prophecy Against Egypt	Winter 587
30:20	11/1/7	Prophecy Against Pharaoh	Spring 587
31:1	11/3/1	Second Prophecy Against Pharaoh	Summer 587
26:1	11/?/1	Condemnation of Tyre (Phoenicia)	Autumn 587
33:21	12/10/5	Ezekiel Hears Jerusalem Falls	Winter 585
32:1	12/12/1	First Lament for Pharaoh	Winter 585
32:17	12/?/15	Second Lament for Pharaoh	Winter 585
40:1	25/1/10	Vision of the Temple	Spring 573
29:17	27/1/1	Lament over Egypt	Spring 571

OUTLINE

The first half of the book contains a series of condemnations, but each section is marked out by a note of God's continued covenant with Judah (called Israel often because the northern kingdom had fallen a century before). These notes are italicized below. They are then realized in Ezekiel's final vision, which is found in chapters 40-43.

1-24 Condemnations and reasons *before* the fall of Jerusalem

- 1-11 The Weirdest Vision Ever and What It Means
 - 2-3 Ezekiel's Call into the Prophetic Office
 - 4-5 The Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold
 - 6-10 The Glory of the LORD abandons Jerusalem because of their idolatry
 - 11 *False Leaders and New Hearts*
- 12-16 The Scale of the Coming Disaster
 - 12 The Inevitable Babylonian Captivity
 - 13-16 Condemnation of Judah's False Faith
The Promise of the Everlasting Covenant
- 17-23 The Reasons God Is Sending the Disaster
 - 17-19 A Parable, A Proverb and a Lament
 - 20-23 Israel's Defilement and Adultery
The LORD will Restore Israel
- 24 The Siege Foretold and Ezekiel's Wife Dies

25-32 Prophecies against nations during the siege of Jerusalem

- 25 Condemnation of Amon, Edom, Moab
- 26-28 Condemnation of Tyre (Phoenicia) and the king of Tyre
- 29-32 Lament over Egypt and Pharaoh

33-48 Comfort and Restoration given *after* the fall of Jerusalem

- 33 Ezekiel Watches Jerusalem Fall
- 34 *Rejection of False Shepherds and the Gathering of the LORD's Flock*
- 35-36 Prophecy Against the Mountains of Edom and Israel
- 36-37 *The Promise of the Spirit and New Heart*
- 38-39 The Coming of Gog (your guess is as good as mine!)
- 40-48 The Restored Temple, the Return of the LORD's Glory and the Renewed Kingdom