

# Ezekiel

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## Historical Background

- Written by the Prophet/Priest Ezeikiel whose name means “God makes strong, hardens”. (1:1-2)
- Ezekiel was a priest during the reign of King Jehoiachin and deported to Babylon around age 26 in 597 B.C.
- After their deportation Nebecenezzar appointed a vassal or puppet king, Zedekiah the uncle of Jehoiachin in his place.
- 5 years into exile, Ezekiel was commissioned by God as a prophet at age 30. His ministry spanned a further 23 years.
- He was prophet during the time of Jerusalem’s and the temple’s destruction.

## Key Theme

- How seriously God takes His holiness and by extension how seriously we should take his holiness.
- Ezekiel is commissioned as the “watchmen” for God’s people, exposing their unholy representation of their holy God. (3:16-21)
- The book hinges around two temple revelations. - 1) God removes His presence from the temple, 2) God looks forward to His temple restored forever.

## Outline/Structure

1. Ezekiel's Vision (ch. 1)
  - a. The "wheels" of wild interpretation. (1:4-6, 15-19)
  - b. The Spirit of God Moves (1:12, 20)
  - c. God brings His Word to wage war (1:24-28)
2. Ezekiel's Commissioning (Chs. 2-3)
  - a. God's commission is clear... Speak whether or not they hear. (2:1-7)
  - b. The "watchman" of holiness (3:16-21, 36:20-21)
3. God's Judgment on Jerusalem/Judah (Chs. 4-24)
  - a. God judges the unholy and unfaithful.
  - b. God's holiness is worth the cost of judgement. (4:1-3, 5:7-12)
  - c. First Temple Revelation: God removes His holy presence. (8-11)
4. God's Judgement on Those Who Hurt His Holy People (Chs. 25-32)
  - a. God is the God of every nation.
  - b. God curses Those Who Curse His People
  - c. Ammon (25:1-7)
  - d. Moab (25:8-11)
  - e. Edom (25:12-14)
  - f. Philistia (25:15-17)
  - g. Tyre (26:1-28:19)
  - h. Sidon (28:20-26)
  - i. Egypt (29-32)
5. Jerusalem's Fall and God's Plan to Restore Holiness (Chs. 33-48)
  - a. God strikes down Jerusalem. (33:21, 28-29)
  - b. God judges the Shepherds of Israel (34:10-12)
  - c. God Himself will Shepherd Israel (34:15-16)
  - d. God will Set One Shepherd (34:23-26, John 10:11-18)
  - e. God will destroy His holiness among the nations and bring life everlasting to His people (36:22-32, 37:1-10, 37:22-28)
  - f. Second Temple Revelation (43:1-5)

## Why Be Equipped by the Book of Ezekiel?

1. Understand how important God's holiness is to Him. Grow in the freedom of holiness and flee from the slavery of sin.
2. See Jesus as the one shepherd, the one king, the Holy One to restore Israel and makes you holy before His Father.
3. Strengthen your evangelistic witness by better understanding the power of God's word to bring spiritually dead people to life.
4. Learn how to be a better living stone within a church that makes people have to say, "The Lord is There."