

Ezekiel

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St. Rose Community Church EQUIP

Background

- Series of visions, prophecies, and essays that show the ugliness of sin and the beauty of God's character
- Distinct among the prophets, written during the exile
- Content is especially intense, but there is great purpose in the vivid imagery

Historical Context

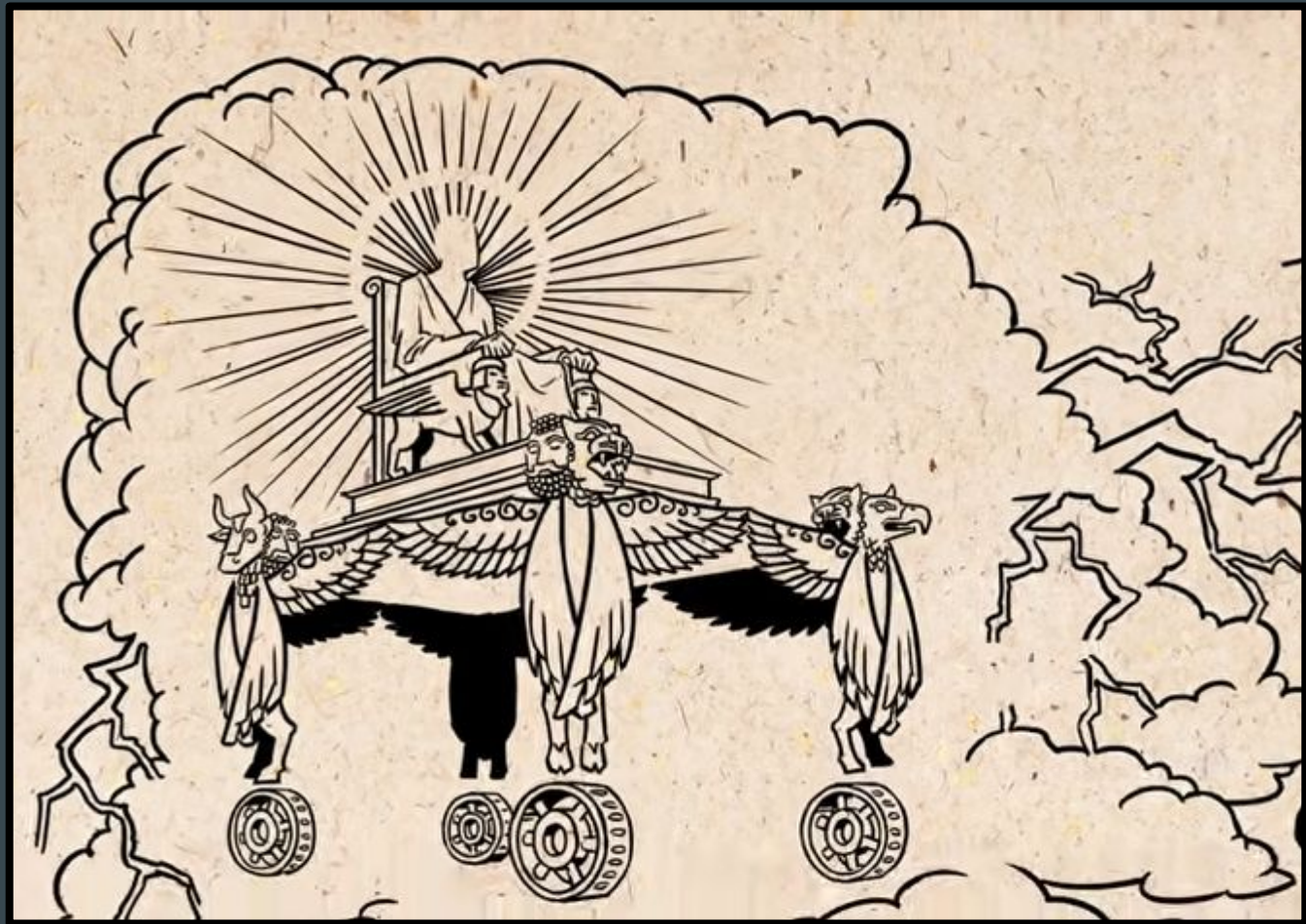
- Written by Ezekiel, family of priests
- First wave of exiles when Babylon conquered the Southern Kingdom in 597 BC
- Second wave of exiles when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC

Historical Context

- Book begins five years after first exile
- Ezekiel's purpose in writing:
 - get Israel to understand why God punished them
 - get the judgement to affect the way they live now
 - promise the restoration to come

God's Glory, Ezekiel's Calling (Ch. 1-3)

- Dramatic vision of God's glory appears
- Vivid imagery and descriptions (visual and auditory)
- Ezekiel is trying VERY hard to explain the unexplainable
- Chariot of winged creatures and wheel with a wheel



God's Glory, Ezekiel's Calling (Ch. 1-3)

- Hebrew word for glory is 'kavod' -> heaviness or weightiness
- An effort to describe the significance of the physical manifestation of God's presence
- Ezekiel called to bring words of lamentation and woe to a people with hard hearts

Sign Act in Chapter 4



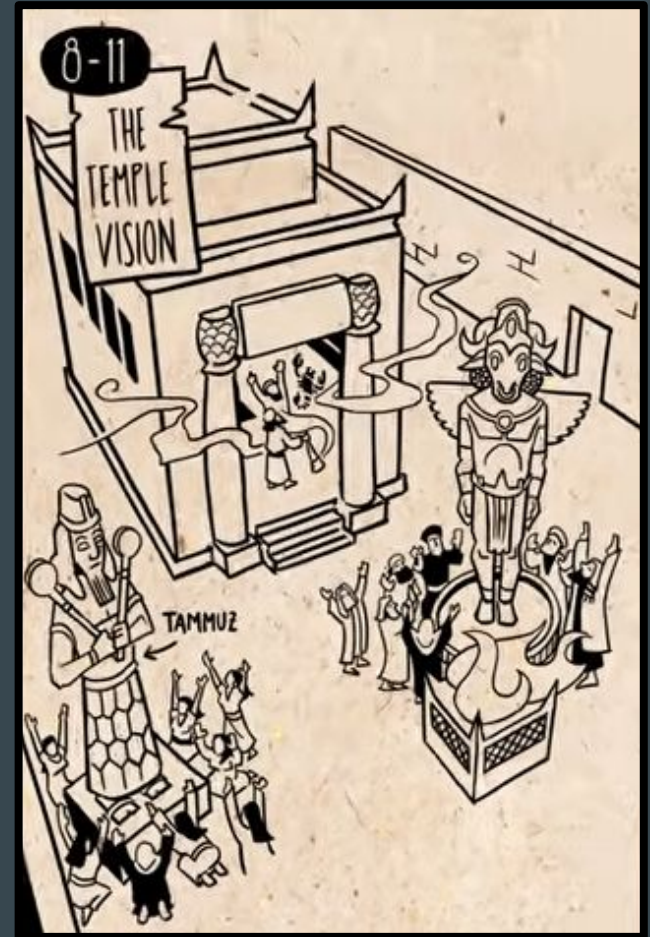
Sign Acts

- “nonverbal actions that visually demonstrated and drove home the message being delivered by prophets”
- a parable acted out in a theatrical way
- technique used by other prophets

“[The prophets] didn’t merely speak out prophecies; they acted them out as well. Unfortunately, the nonverbal components don’t get much press today, so we often mistake these sign acts as yet another **prophetic oddity** when, in fact, they’re a **key ingredient** in the compelling, **multi-sensory** presentations that fill the prophetic pages.”

Abomination In The Temple

- Heavenly visitor appears to Ezekiel, and transports him to Jerusalem
- “The seat of the image of jealousy”
- Idol worship in Israel so pervasive, set up a graven image in temple complex



God's Glory Departs (Ch. 11)

- God's presence leaves the temple
- God promises judgement
- First glimmer of hope of restoration

The LORD's Faithless Bride (Ch. 16)

- A dramatic and heartbreaking transformation
- Clearly displays the ugliness of sin and the beauty of God's grace
- God's purpose in redeeming Israel will be accomplished

Confounding Atonement

- Day of Atonement in Leviticus
- “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” Hebrews 10:4
- Jesus, the **Passover Lamb**, atones for us
- Female imagery continues in new covenant & New Testament
- Church will be presented, unstained by the world

Sin At Every Level (Ch. 22)

- Priests - didn't uphold truth or teach the Law
- Princes - greedy, corrupt, violent
- Prophets - wicked and corrupt, full of falsehood
- People - selfish extortionists, oppressing the poor and sojourner

Oholah and Oholibah (Ch. 23)

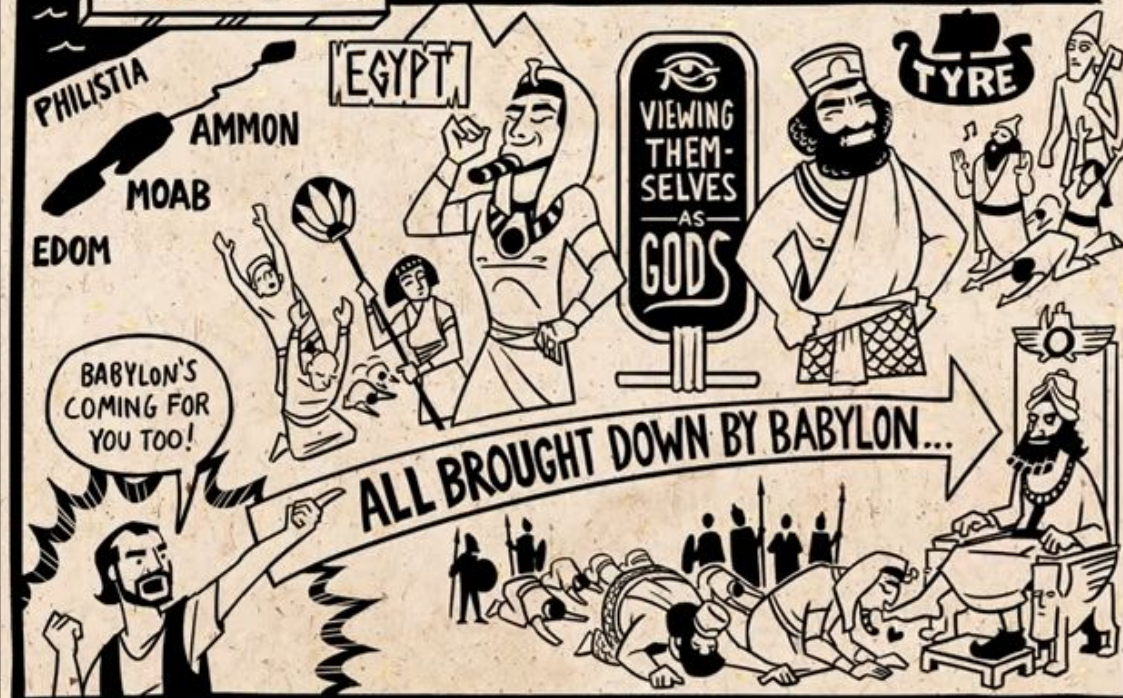
- Two sisters, Samaria and Jerusalem
- Defiled themselves with idols
- Both deserve to drink the cup of God's wrath
- Instead, Jesus drank the cup of wrath for us

“For our sake he made him to be sin who
knew no sin, so that in him we might
become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

25-32

JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS



33

JERUSALEM HAS FALLEN!



34-37 HOPE FOR ISRAEL

MESSIANIC KING

34 A NEW DAVID

36 A NEW ISRAEL WITH A NEW HEART

GOD'S SPIRIT

AN IMAGE OF ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL STATE: EXILE & DEATH

37 VALLEY OF DRY BONES

RECALLS GENESIS 2:7
HUMANS=DIRT+DIVINE BREATH

THE ONLY HOPE IS FOR GOD TO REMAKE HUMANS TO LOVE GOD & OTHERS.



38-39

HOPE FOR THE NATIONS

GOD DEFEATS EVIL
AMONG THE NATIONS



GOG

ANCIENT KINGDOM
FROM GENESIS 10

DESCRIPTION OF GOG =
DESCRIPTION OF KINGS
OF TYRE & EGYPT

ARCHETYPE OF
HUMAN REBELLION

THESE SCENES ARE
FULL OF SYMBOLS
& IMAGERY ABOUT

GOD'S
final defeat of
EVIL

EARTHQUAKE

FIRE



40-48

HOPE FOR ALL CREATION

40-46

VISION OF
A NEW TEMPLE



THE MEANING of the VISIONS ?

- 1.) LITERAL BLUEPRINTS OF NEW TEMPLE IN THE FUTURE MESSIANIC KINGDOM.
- 2.) SYMBOLIC DEPICTION OF GOD'S PRESENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM.

- Stream from temple turns into river
- May represent the Gospel message



- Dead Sea Valley is transformed into an oasis
- Sin has been defeated, God is victorious
- A new city named “The LORD Is There”

To Do

Watch Bible Project Overview of

Memorize