

Sign Acts in Ezekiel

Text	Ezekiel's Action	Meaning
4:1-3	Sketches Jerusalem on a brick	The city will be put to siege
4:4-8	Lies on left side for 390 days, on right side for 40	The years of iniquity and punishment for Judah
4:9-17	Eats exile's rations	Jerusalem's starvation diet when siege occurs
5:1-12	Shaves his head with a sword, weighs and divides the hair, burning a portion of it, smiting a second portion with a sword and scattering the third portion to the winds	The smallness of the escaping remnant amidst the thoroughness of the judgment
12:1-12	Digs his way through a wall and takes an exile's baggage with him	Exile is an inescapable reality for which the people must be prepared
21:18-23	Marks out a route for the Babylonian army with a crossroads that forces the king to cast lots to decide which road to take	God will determine the itinerary of the Babylonian troops and it will lead inevitably to Jerusalem
25:15-24	Loses his wife in death	The chosen people, the delight of Yahweh's eyes, will be lost in death or exile

Dates mentioned in Ezekiel

		yr.	mo.	day	(1 = 597/6) ¹¹
1:2	Opening vision	5	4	5	July 31, 593
8:1	Vision in the temple	6	6	5	Sept. 17, 592
20:1	Message to the elders	7	5	10	Aug. 14, 591
24:1	Report of the siege of Jerusalem	9	10	10	Jan. 15, 588
26:1	Prophecy against Tyre	11	(1)	1	Apr. 23, 587
*29:1	Prophecy against Pharaoh	10	10	12	Jan. 7, 587
*29:17	Prophecy to Babylon about Egypt	27	1	1	Apr. 26, 571
30:20	Prophecy against Pharaoh	11	1	7	Apr. 29, 587
31:1	Prophecy to Pharaoh	11	3	1	June 21, 587
*32:1	Lamentation over Pharaoh	12	12	1	March 3, 585
32:17	Lamentation over Egypt	12	1	15	Apr. 27, 586
33:21	Report of Jerusalem's fall	12	10	5	Jan. 8, 585
40:1	Vision of restored temple	25	1	10	Apr. 28, 573

*Obviously not in chronological sequence

Outline of Ezekiel

Chs 1-11

- Ezekiel and his calling
- The glory of the Lord (IN BABYLON)
- Sign acts begin
- Vision of the temple, the Lord's glory leaves
- Promise of restoration -> there is still a future for Israel beyond exile

Chs 12-24

- Judgement against Israel
- Use of parables and allegories to show Israel's rebellion and idolatry
- Other passages seek to prove God's judgement is deserved and God's goodness demands justice

Chs 25-33

- Judgement of the nations
 - Nations right around Jerusalem (Philistia, Ammon, Moab, and Edom)
 - Two biggest powers in the region (Egypt & Tyre); condemns them for their arrogance and pride; Babylon will bring them down as well
- Judgement of Jerusalem itself (ch 33)
 - refugee from Jerusalem reports Babylon has attacked the city and destroyed the temple

Chs 34-48

- The hope of chapter 11 fleshed out
- Hope for Israel (34-37) -> God promises to raise up a new David, Israel's hearts transformed to live under God's rule, valley of dry bones as metaphor for Israel's spiritual state
- Hope for all nations (ch 38-39) -> "Gog of the land of Magog;" differing opinions; likely represents the evil among the nations; God will defeat it fully
- Hope for all creation (ch 40-48) -> God's presence returns to his temple, to dwell with his people and restore creation and bring cosmic restoration
 - Elaborate directions for a new temple, God's glory returns (40-46)
 - Source of debate for a long, long time; two main interpretations: literal or symbolic
 - City never named "Jerusalem;" tiny stream pouring out of the temple threshold, becomes river, flows into desert and Dead Sea Valley, Dead Sea transforms into oasis; "The Lord is There" is the name of the city