



FOUR SYMBOLIC PARABLES PORTRAY JERUSALEM'S FALL (4:1-5:17)

- ◇ Sign of the City Besieged (4:1-3)
- ◇ Sign of the Prophet Lying On His Side (4:4-8)
- ◇ Sign of Eating Polluted Bread (4:9-17)
- ◇ The Sign of the Prophet's Haircut and Shave (5:1-4)
- ◇ The reason for the Severe Judgment (5:5-17)

THE DEVASTATION OF THE LAND (6:1-7:27)

- ◇ Destruction is Decreed Upon the Land (6:1-7)
- ◇ A Remnant Will be Spared (6:8-10)
- ◇ The Punishment is Just (6:11-14)

- ◆ The Certainty of the Judgment (7:1-9)
- ◆ The Desolation Described (7:10-27)
- ◆ Social disruption (7:10-13)
- ◆ Military disruption (7:14-18)
- ◆ Economic disruption (7:19-22)
- ◆ Political disruption (7:23-27)

JEFFERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2016 Adult Bible Study

Ezekiel

By Elder Betsi Moise



JUDGEMENT NEAR	1	Ezekiel's Vision	INWARD
	3		
	4		
JUDGEMENT NOW	6	Jerusalem's Signs	OUTWARD
	7		
	11		
	12	Condemnation for Idolatry	
	15		
	16		
	19	Condemnation for Leaders	
	20		
	24		
	25	Parables	
	28		
	29		
32	Pronouncements		
33			
36			
HOPE AHEAD	37	Judgment on Judah's Enemies	ONWARD
	39		
	40		
	43	Judgment on Egypt	
	44		
48	New Shepherd		
	New Life		
	New Temple		
	New Worship		

EZEKIEL: GOD IS STRONG

Nebuchadnezzar II's Conquest of Judah: Under the Chaldean dynasty, and, arguably, throughout the rest of history, no king surpassed the glory and absolute power of Nebuchadnezzar II's reign. As the crown prince (son of Nabopolassar), he defeated Pharaoh Necho II, who had come to the aid of the Assyrian army, winning for Babylonia the former Assyrian lands, including Israel. After being crowned king, Nebuchadnezzar forced King Jehoiakim of Judah to "become his vassal for three years. But then [Jehoiakim] changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar" (2 Kings 24:1).

The king of Babylon, who did not take kindly to being rebelled against, captured Jerusalem and took the king and other leaders, military men and artisans as prisoners to Babylon (2 Kings 24:12-16). This deportation marked the beginning of the Babylonian exile of the Jews. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah to rule Judah. However, Zedekiah, against the prophet Jeremiah's counsel, joined the Egyptians in a revolt in 589 B.C. This resulted in Nebuchadnezzar's return. The remaining Jews were deported, Jerusalem was burned, and the temple was destroyed in August of 587 or 586 BC (Jeremiah 52:1-30).

The Prophet Daniel and the Fall of Babylon: Babylon is the setting for the ministry of the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel, who were both deportees from Judah. Daniel became a leader and royal advisor to the Babylonian and Persian Empires. He had been captured after the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. (Jeremiah 46:2-12). The book of Daniel records Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2) and foretells the fall of Babylon to the Medes and the Persians (Daniel 5). Earlier, the prophet Isaiah had also foretold the fall of Babylon (Isaiah 46:1-2).

In the Bible, Babylon is mentioned from Genesis to Revelation, as it rises from its rebellious beginnings to become a symbol of the Antichrist's evil world system. When God's people required discipline, God used the Babylonian Empire to accomplish it, but He limited Judah's captivity to 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11). Then, God promised to "punish the king of Babylon and his nation" (Jeremiah 25:12) "for all the wrong they have done in Zion" (Jeremiah 51:24). Ultimately, all evil will be judged, as symbolized by Babylon's demise in Revelation 18:21: "The great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again."





Babylon rose from a Mesopotamian city on the Euphrates River to become a powerful city-state and later the capital city and namesake of one of the greatest empires in history. The city was located on the eastern side of the Fertile Crescent about 55 miles south of modern Baghdad. Babylon's history intersected the biblical timeline early and often.

The Founding of Babylon: The Bible’s first mention of Babylon comes in Genesis 10. This chapter is referred to as the table of nations as it traces the descendants of Noah’s three sons. In the genealogy of Ham, “Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth” (Genesis 10:8). Nimrod founded a kingdom that included a place called “Babylon” in Shinar (Genesis 10:10).

Babylon's Early Growth: Near the time of Abraham, Babylon became an independent city-state ruled by the Amorites. The first Babylonian dynasty included Hammurabi, the sixth king, known for his code of laws. Hammurabi expanded the kingdom, and the area around Babylon became known as Babylonia. During the second dynasty, Babylon was in communication with Egypt and entered a 600-year struggle with Assyria. After a time of subjugation to the Elamite Empire, a fourth dynasty of Babylonian kings thrived under Nebuchadnezzar I. Then Babylon fell under the shadow of Assyria.

NOTES:

Questions:

Chapter 4

- ◇ To what people was Ezekiel to speak? (4-7,11)
- ◇ What is the significance of Ezekiel lying on his left side 390 days and his right side for 40 days? (4:4-8)

Chapter 5

- ◇ What did Ezekiel bind in the hem of his garment? What would become of these later? (5:3-4) What do you think these represented? (Jeremiah 40-44)

Chapter 6

- ◇ What hope does Ezekiel give to Israel in this evil decree? To whom is this promise limited? (6:8-10)
- ◇ What was the primary purpose of God's wrath and judgment in verse fourteen? (6:14)

Chapter 7

- ◇ What resource had the people come to trust in, which would now fail them in these verses? (7:12-13)
- ◇ What did Ezekiel predict that the people would do to try to avert God's wrath in these verses? (7:24-27)

Reflections:

- ◇ Three times in this reading Ezekiel used the expression "I the Lord have spoken it." What do these words signify about Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Jerusalem?
- ◇ What principle of justice does God apply in all His judgments? (7:27; cf. Romans 2:6)

Biblical References:

Ezekiel	See and Compare
3:16-21	Isaiah 21:11, 62:6; Jeremiah 6:17; Psalm 127:1, 130:6; Hebrews. 13:17
4:5-6	Numbers 14:34; Exodus 12:40-41
4:12-14, 16	Hosea 9:3-4; Acts 10:14; Psalm 105:16
5:1-4, 6	Jeremiah 45:5; 2 Samuel 10:4; Romans 2:14-15
5:8-11	Lamentations 4:10;
5:13, 15	Hebrews 10:31; 12:29; psalm 79:4
6:1-2	Isaiah 62:4-5
7:19	Proverbs 11:4
7:23-27, 26	Micah 3:5-7 ; Psalm 74:9; Lamentation 2:9

