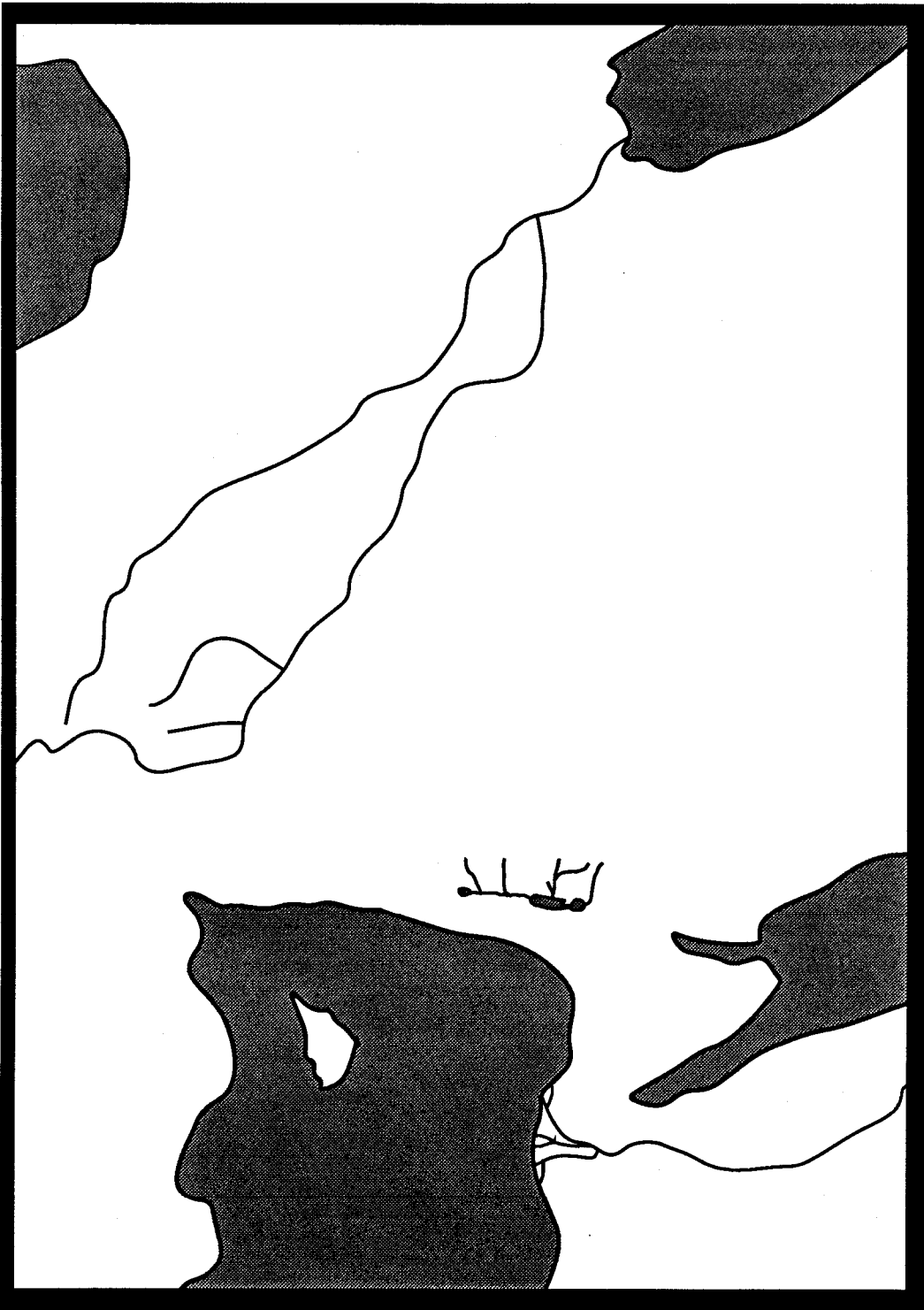


Ezekiel - Lesson 1

Outline of the Class

Lesson 1	3/13	Introduction to the life and times of the prophet Ezekiel	
Lesson 2	3/16	The Call of Ezekiel by Jehovah	1:1 - 3:27
Lesson 3	3/20	Ezekiel's Visual Prophecies	4:1 - 5:17
Lesson 4	3/23	Judgment Pronounced on Jerusalem	6:1 - 7:27
Lesson 5	3/27	Visions Concerning Jerusalem's Judgment	8:1 - 11:25
Lesson 6	3/30	Symbols and Sermons	12:1 - 14:23
Lesson 7	4/3	Parables and Pictures	15:1 - 17:24
Lesson 8	4/6	Doctrines and Dirges	18:1 - 19:14
Lesson 9	4/10	Israel: Past and Future	20:1 - 24:27
Lesson 10	4/13	Judgment of the Neighboring Nations	25:1 - 32:32
Lesson 11	4/17	Preparation for Restoration	33:1 - 35:15
Lesson 12	4/20	Transformation and Restoration	36:1 - 37:28
Lesson 13	4/24	New Worship in a New Land	38:1 - 48:35

Ezekiel - Lesson 1



Map of the Babylonian Empire

Ezekiel - Lesson 1

The Prophets in Time

<u>Prophet</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Period</u>
Obadiah	845	Judah	Edom	Assyrian
Joel	835	Judah	Judah	↓
Jonah	782	Israel	Nineveh	
Hosea	760	Israel	Israel	
Amos	760	Israel	Israel	
Isiah	739	Judah	Judah	
Micah	735	Judah	Judah	
Nahum	650	Judah	Nineveh	
Zephaniah	640	Judah	Judah	Babylonian
Jeremiah	627	Judah	Judah	↓
Habakkuk	609	Judah	Judah	
Daniel	605	Judah	Babylon	
Ezekiel	593	Exile	Judah & Exiles	↓
Haggai	520	Judah	Judah	
Zechariah	520	Judah	Judah	
Malachi	433	Judah	Judah	

Ezekiel - Lesson 1

Pertinent History to the Book of Ezekiel

Use this sheet summarize the history of Israel immediately surrounding the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel - Lesson 1

The Nature of God as Revealed By Ezekiel

Use this sheet to note key observations about God's nature and his interaction with man as revealed in the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel - Lesson 1

The visual aides of Ezekiel

Use this sheet to note the visual aides and examples utilized by Ezekiel in his teaching and prophesying.

Ezekiel - Lesson 2

The Call of Ezekiel by Jehovah 1:1-3:27

1. Describe the scene which Ezekiel saw in his vision.

- Was Ezekiel convinced that the message was from God? Why?
- Speculate why God manifested Himself in this way.
- How did God interact with Ezekiel in the vision?

2. What was Ezekiel commissioned by God to do?

- How did God describe the recipients of the message?
- How was Ezekiel going to be received?
- How was Ezekiel to react to the people?

3. What did God ask Ezekiel to do with the scroll?

- What was the significance of this action?
- Where else in the Bible do we see similar actions?

Ezekiel - Lesson 2

4. To whom does God compare the children of Israel in 3:4-9?
 - How do they compare?

 - How has he prepared Ezekiel for the task?

5. What was Ezekiel's reaction at the end of the first vision?

6. God speaks to Ezekiel a second time, beginning at 3:16.
 - How does God view the role of a "watchman?"

 - What are the primary messages of a "watchman?"

 - Do the actions of a "watchman" excuse/justify those "watched?"

7. Why does God call Ezekiel out to the plains?
 - How does God indicate Ezekiel will be treated?

 - When would Ezekiel speak to the people?

 - What was God's attitude toward those hearing Ezekiel's message?

Ezekiel - Lesson 3

Ezekiel's Visual Prophecies 4:1 - 5:17

1. Ezekiel 4:1 - 5:4 is loaded with symbolic actions which Ezekiel was to perform at God's direction. Make a list of these actions on page 6 of your handouts.
2. Examine each of these actions closely, and try to come up with *stated* and *possible* reasons that these strange actions were useful in conveying God's message to the Children of Israel (this is the hard, but fun part!!).

Ezekiel - Lesson 3

3. Formulate an *opinion* on these questions.
 - Did Ezekiel lay on his side for a full 430 “day and night” days?

 - Why did God allow Ezekiel to change his fuel for baking bread?

 - Were Ezekiel’s actions described in 5:1-4 a violation of Lev. 21:5?

4. Consider 5:5-8 in light of man’s acceptance of God’s judgments.
 - Why was Jerusalem worse than the nations around her?

 - What had Jerusalem failed to do beyond keeping God’s statutes?

5. The rest of chapter 5 describes God’s terrible anger being poured out on Jerusalem.
 - Describe the extent of God’s judgment.

 - Was this punishment limited to the children of Israel?

 - Why was God going to punish as he had never punished before?

 - What knowledge would they have after God finished his judgment?
How about the nations around them?

6. Look up a historical account of the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - Was the prophecy given in verse 12 fulfilled?

 - How about the other terrible things described in this passage?

Ezekiel - Lesson 4

Judgment pronounced on Jerusalem 6:1 - 7:27

1. The first seven verses of chapter 6 describe a terrible destruction.
 - Who was bringing about this destruction?
 - What places were the scene of this destruction?
 - What would be the result of this destruction?

2. Why does God indicate He will leave a remnant (6:8-10)?
 - How would the remnant feel?
 - What would they realize?
 - Thought question: Why could the remnant be thankful in trials?

3. How extensive was the destruction of Jerusalem to be (6:11-14)?
 - What was God's sign against idolatry?
 - Why was God going to curse the land also?

4. Read chapter 7 and list phrases which occur more than once.
 - Can you summarize this passage with these phrases?

Ezekiel - Lesson 4

5. What reaction had Israel's constant rebellion brought from God?
 - Was God's reaction against His nature?(love, longsuffering, mercy...)
 - What would God's judgment teach them?
6. Describe the plight of the people of Jerusalem who will be judged.
7. What was going to happen in the city as a final humiliation to the people?
8. Application : "I will do to them according to their way, and according to what they deserve I will judge them."
 - Why had the Israelites not understood this in the past?
 - Does God deal with us in this manner?
 - What does such judgment accomplish in the ones judged?
 - What does such judgment accomplish in others?

Ezekiel - Lesson 5

Visions Concerning Jerusalem's Judgment 8:1 - 11:25

1. Where was Ezekiel when he had his vision and who was with him?
2. Does God get Ezekiel's attention in this vision? How?
3. Make a list of the abominations of Jerusalem which God showed Ezekiel.
4. How did God feel about what was going on in Jerusalem?
5. In Ezekiel's vision, what happens to the people in Jerusalem?
 - Who carries out this judgment?
 - Is there any hope portrayed in this scene? How is there hope?
6. After seeing the portion of the vision described in chapter 10, what did Ezekiel conclude about his earlier vision by the Chebar River? (10:20).

Ezekiel - Lesson 5

7. What does God command the man clothed in linen to do?
 - Of what might this action be symbolic?
 - How is this action accomplished?
8. What did the departure of the glory of the Lord from the temple indicate?
9. What was the saying of the princes of the people of Jerusalem?
 - What did they mean by this?
 - What did God have to say about this saying?
10. In 11:13, Ezekiel again despairs about Israel's future.
 - Who does God indicate He is favoring among the people?
 - What is the future for those people?
11. What will the people brought back to Jerusalem do for the Lord?
 - What will be their attitude of heart?
 - How would they follow God?
12. What did Ezekiel tell the elders when his vision had ended?

Ezekiel - Lesson 6

Symbols and Sermons 12:1 - 14:23

1. What is the mark of a rebellious person?
2. On page 6 of you handout, list the visual aides God told Ezekiel to use.
 - Describe the lesson taught by each of these actions.

3. Beginning at 12:21, the Lord deals with another proverb of the people.
 - What was the proverb?
 - What did the people mean by the proverb?
 - What was God's "saying" in response to this proverb?

4. Chapter 13 is a prophecy against the false prophets of Israel.
 - What were these people prophesying?
 - To what does the Lord liken their prophecies?
 - What would he figuratively do to their work?

Ezekiel - Lesson 6

5. In prophesying against the women prophets, the Lord accuses them of leading away the people with lies.

- Who was responsible for the people going astray?
- What had these prophets actions done to the righteous?
- What had they done for the wicked?
- Does this remind you of anything that God had earlier said to Ezekiel concerning the duty of a prophet?

6. How does God indicate that he will now deal with idolatrous people?

- Was this different than He had previously dealt with them?
- Who would bear the guilt of inquiring of a false prophet?
- What call is made in 14:6 that has not been previously made by Ezekiel?

7. Could repentance and righteousness avert the coming judgment by God?

- What righteous men does God cite to illustrate his point?
- Who could these righteous men save?

8. God indicates that there is still hope. For whom?

- What would the people learn when they saw these people?
- How do righteous people help us understand God's actions?

Ezekiel - Lesson 7

Parables and Pictures 15:1-17:24

1. The Wood of the Vine 15:1-8
 - A. To what does Ezekiel compare the inhabitants of Jerusalem?
 - What will happen to the vine?
 - B. What is Israel compared to in Psa. 80:8-11?
 - What is the difference in the two passages?
 - C. The “vines” left unburned would know what?

2. A Love Story 16:1-14
 - A. Who or what appears to be the object of God’s love?
 - Whom could the listeners also assume were included as objects of this love?
 - Who can we assume is included?
 - B. Was this love given because of the beauty of the loved?
 - Because it was deserved? Why then? (Deut. 7:7-9)
 - C. In view of the rest of this address, is this merely a restatement of God’s love?

3. Love Gone Astray 16:15-34
 - A. What relationship is implied by the word covenant in vs. 8?
 - Was Israel faithful to the covenant?
 - B. What did Israel do with the gifts from God?
 - In what ways did this actually occur?

Ezekiel - Lesson 7

- C. Who are listed as Israel's lovers?
- In what ways was Israel unfaithful with them?
 - How bad did Israel's sin become?
- D. Israel was worse than a harlot: In what ways?
4. Judgment of the Adulteress 16:35-43
- A. Who would be the instrument for bringing justice on Israel?
- B. Who was the driving force behind the punishment?
- C. Who was actually responsible?
5. Like Mother, Like Daughter 16:43-52
- A. Who was the mother? Who were the sisters?
- B. Who would the listeners believe to be the most sinful - Sodom, Samaria or Jerusalem?
- C. How was Jerusalem more sinful?
6. The Covenant Restored 16:44-63
- A. With whom will the covenant be restored?
- B. Do you think this is a prophecy of the new covenant?
- C. What would be required before the covenant is established? vs. 63
7. A Political Puzzle 17:1-24
- A. Describe the puzzle in 17:1-10. Should the listener have understood.
- B. What is the explanation given in 11-21?
- Who were the kings involved? See (2 Kgs. 24:10-17; Jer. 37:5)
- C. What source is a third possibility that the king should have considered? (vs. 22-24)

Ezekiel - Lesson 8

Doctrines and Dirges 18:1 - 19:14

1. Individual Responsibility 18:1-20

A. What popular proverb is disputed?

- Why would this proverb be so popular?
- How would belief in the proverb interfere with the peoples' return to God?

B. Guilt and Innocence are approached from several angles:

vs. 5-9

vs. 10-13

vs. 14-18

- What is the basic message?

C. Make a list of the do's and don'ts doctrine listed here.

- Is this a complete list?
- Why such a long list, repeated so often?

2. Responsibility and Repentance 18:21-32

A. What happens to a wicked man who repents and turns to God?

- What happens to a good man who repents and turns to evil?

B. Why do the people think this is unjust?

- By this complaint to whom do they give credit for forgiveness of sins?

C. The author seems to promise "forgiveness of sins." How is that possible without the shedding of Christ's blood?

D. What is God's desire in this matter?

- Is this familiar?

Ezekiel - Lesson 8

3. Lament for Young Lions 19:1-9

A. Ezekiel turns to poetry as a means of prophecy. List the other forms of teaching used.

- Why would so many styles be used?
- This particular style is a lament or dirge. What would a dirge suggest to the people?

B. Who was the young lion? 2 Kgs. 23:30

C. The second lion might have been Jehoiachin (he had already been carried to Babylon). It was more likely a reference to Zedekiah 2 Kgs. 24:14. Why?

- What impact would this have?

4. The Vine and Its Branch 19:10-14

A. This dirge is a parallel to the one found in 19:1-9. Who is the Queen Mother?

- Who became the strong stem?
- What happened to the vine?

B. If the stem is burned, how can it be transplanted in vs. 13?

- Even if transplanted elsewhere, what good will it be?

C. Ezekiel seems to be going to great lengths to dash any hope. How can he be so cruel?

- Is it cruel?

Ezekiel - Lesson 9

Israel: Past and Future 20:1 - 24:27

1. A Different Look at History 20:1-31
 - A. How long had it been since the events of Ezekiel 8-11? (8:1)
 - B. What evidence is there that the elders had learned very little during this time?
 - C. What did they get in response to their inquiry?
 - D. How would the Jews have remembered their glorious exit from Egypt?
 - What different view did Ezekiel give them?
 - E. At what times did God consider destroying his people as listed here?
 - Why, in each case, did he refrain?
 - F. In vs. 25-26 Ezekiel says God gave ordinances, including sacrifice of their firstborn, by which they could not live. What might that mean?
 - G. How eager were they to forsake God's law? vs. 28
 - H. What lessons can we learn about human nature and God's mercy from Israel's history?
2. Back to the Elders Original Question 20:32-44
 - A. What might the elders original question have been?
 - B. What is the first part of the answer (vs. 33-39)?
 - What is the second part (vs. 40-44)?

Ezekiel - Lesson 9

3. The Sword 20:45-21:32

A. What is the allegory in 45-49?

- Without an interpretation, is it difficult to interpret the allegory (Fire in Negols)?

- Of what is Ezekiel accused?

B. What alternate allegory begins in the 21st chapter to help interpret the one just used?

C. What would be Ezekiel's reaction to the sword's destruction?

- Was this acting real or both?

D. What does Ezekiel appear to be doing in 8-17?

- Of whom is the sword representative?

E. What historical event helps to explain vs. 18-27?

- What new false hope does Ezekiel dash?
- Describe the choice made by the sword vs. 28-32.
- Does Ammon get away with their own evil?
- What eventually happens to the sword in vs. 30-32?

Ezekiel - Lesson 9

4. A Catalog of Crime 22: 1-16

A. How has Jerusalem gone from the "Holy City" to the Bloody City?

- What is the basic sin of Jerusalem?
- What becomes the out growth 22:1-16

B. What is the purpose of melting a mixture of metals?

- When this happens to Israel, what is left? vs. 17-22

C. What should have been the role of each of the following?

Princes -
 Priests -
 Prophets -
 People -

- How did they act? 22:23-31
- Who was left to point a finger?

5. A Tale of Two Sisters (Cities) 23:1-49

A. Who were the two sisters and who did they represent?

- Relate the general story of the two.

B. How long had the first sister been dead?

- Did Jerusalem feel related to her?

C. Do you find this "soap opera like" story crude? see 8, 15, 17, 21.

- Why would the story be related so directly?

D. Notice how many time's the writer says "Thus says the Lord"

Ezekiel - Lesson 9

6. The Rusty Pot 24:1-14

A. Why is it so important that this date be written down?

- How long had it been since the last recorded date?

B. Describe the new allegory.

- What is its meaning?
- How long would it be before the allegory would be proven?

7. Death of Ezekiel's Wife 24:15-27

A. Was the death of Ezekiel's wife expected?

B. What was Ezekiel to do in response to her death?

C. What would this be to the people?

- Does this seem to be a cold reaction on Ezekiel's part?
- How do you explain it.

D. What appears to happen to Ezekiel on his wife's death? (25-27).

- What appears to be a conflict in timing on the defeat of Jerusalem and Ezekiel's hearing the news?

Ezekiel - Lesson 10

Judgment of the Neighboring Nations 25:1 - 32:32

Five class reports will be given on the following chapters. Please use the provided space to make notes (i. e., What: is promised? condemned? the sin of the nation?)

Chapter 25 -

Chapters 26-27 -

Ezekiel - Lesson 10

Chapter 28 -

Chapters 29-30 -

Chapters 31-32 -

Ezekiel - Lesson 11

Preparation for Restoration 33:1 - 35:15

1. Why does Ezekiel repeat the description of a good watchman in 33:1-9?
 - How does this compare with the first description (3:16-21)?

2. Why does Ezekiel emphasize that there is a possibility for repentance and return to God (33:10-20)?
 - How will a sinner demonstrate his repentance?
 - In what sense are God's promises to both the righteous and wicked conditional?
 - What was some of the Jews reaction to this message (v. 20)?

3. How long was it after the fall of Jerusalem until news reached the captives by way of the fugitive from the city? (3:21-29)
 - Explain the "opening" of Ezekiel's mouth upon arrival of the news.
 - What was the attitude of those remaining in Jerusalem after the fall?
 - What evidence is there that the survivors left in Jerusalem had still not changed?

Ezekiel - Lesson 11

4. What was the attitude of the exiles toward Ezekiel (33:30-33)?
 - To what are they compared?

5. Who were the shepherds condemned by Ezekiel (34:1-10)?
 - How had they failed in their duty?

6. In what way would the shepherd be replaced immediately (34:11-22)?
 - What changes would occur under the new shepherd?
 - Were the sheep without responsibility in straying away?

7. What shepherd would be raised up for the sheep (34:23-31)?
 - What would the pasture be like under this shepherd?

 - How would the sheep be like Adam (v. 31)?

8. Why is Edom singled out for condemnation by God (35:1-15)?

Ezekiel - Lesson 12

Transformation and Restoration 36:1 - 37:28

1. In what way would the enemies of Israel who cast covetous eyes on the desolate land be disappointed (36:1-7)?
 - What three crimes had been committed against the land of Israel?
 - What does it mean when God lifts up his hand with regard to any matter?
2. Some claimed that the land of Canaan devoured its inhabitants. What did they mean by this (36:8-15)?
3. In what way did Israel unwittingly profane the name of God in captivity (36:16-21)?
4. Were all the glowing promises regarding the restoration to Canaan fulfilled literally and continually (36:22-38)? Explain.
 - What did the restoration of Israel to Canaan prove about God?
 - What connection is there between the repentance of Israel and their restoration to the land?
 - What does Ezekiel say which forms the background for the New Testament doctrine of the indwelling of God's Spirit?

Ezekiel - Lesson 12

- How would God save His people from their uncleanness?
 - Once in Canaan, what attitude would the Jews have toward their former life of sin?
 - When were the promises of restoration fulfilled?
5. What did the valley of dry bones symbolize (37:1-14)?
- How is the spiritual depression of the Babylonian exiles indicated in chapter 37?
 - What did the resurrection of the dry bones symbolize?
6. Explain the parable of the two sticks.
- What does Ezekiel say about the ruler of the united tribes?
 - How was the prophecy of a sanctuary for God's people fulfilled?

Ezekiel - Lesson 13

New Worship in a New Land 38:1 - 48:35

Five class reports will be given on the following chapters. Please use the provided space to make notes.

Chapters 38-39 •

Chapters 40-41 •

Ezekiel - Lesson 13

Chapters 42-44 •

Chapters 45-46 •

Chapters 47-48 •

Ezekiel - Test

1. Name at least five of the "unusual" means which Ezekiel used to deliver God's message to the people.

-
-
-
-
-

2. List some of the false sayings which the people had developed in order to avoid dealing with the reality of their situation.

3. Ezekiel describes the terrible destruction which was about to beset Jerusalem. What "rays of hope" are sprinkled throughout Ezekiel's message?

Ezekiel - Test

4. List at least three visions which Ezekiel saw, and briefly explain their purpose.

5. What is the most surprising message/fact that you learned while studying the book of Ezekiel?