

The Bible - Week 23 (June 13th)

Eric Swanson / General

Ezekiel

Author: The Prophet Ezekiel

Date: Likely between 590-570 BCE

Audience: To the exiles in Babylon. They were loosing hope and Ezekiel tried to reach them in the space they had found themselves in.

Reason: The people were once again knowing the boot of oppression and Ezekiel spoke to offer them hope of salvation once again.

Theme: The rule of God over all peoples.

Key Verse:

Ezekiel 39:28-29 CEB

They will know that I am the LORD their God when, after I made them go into exile among the nations, I gathered them to their land. I won't leave any of them behind When I pour my Spirit upon the house of Israel, I won't hide my face from them again. This is what the LORD God says.

Sections: Judgement against Judah (Chapters 1-24), Judgment against others (Chapters 25-32), Future Restoration (Chapters 33-39), The future Temple (Chapters 40-48)

Key Words: Know that I am God, Temple, Holy, Covenant

Basic Intro: Ezekiel is a unique prophet in that he is also a

priest. He has a crazy start with a strange vision in Chapters 1-3 and he spends a lot of time speaking to some destruction that we don't think of today but his work is still powerful if we are faithful to the full reading of it.

Questions for Discussion:

- **What do you think the pieces of Ezekiel's vision could stand for?**

- **Lion:**

- **Ox:**

- **Man:**

- **Eagle:**

- **Wheels:**

- **Sometimes the presence of God is overpowering, how have you experienced the overpowering presence of God? How was it like Ezekiel or how was it different?**

- **One of the most powerful visions is of dry bones coming to life. What does this vision mean to you? How can we see God raising up dry bones today?**