**EZEKIEL**

Intro: The last three kings of Judah were Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. Under each of these three kings, there was a wave of exiles sent to Babylon. The third and last wave was when Judah was ultimately conquered by Babylon. Ezekiel was in either the first or second wave of exiles. Other prophets at this time were Jeremiah, Isaiah and Daniel.

**Chapter 2:**

Ezekiel is being sent to share God’s word with the exiles in Babylon. He is told to leave his home and go into exile (2:4-5).

**Chapter 4:**

Ezekiel is asked to do strange things. This chapter lays out one of the strangest.

**Chapter 5**

Ezekiel is to continue to act out God’s messages. He is to cut his hair and divide into three parts. This will symbolize what God will do to those in Jerusalem.

**Chapter 11**

Verse 16: Even in punishment, God will protect them. He is still with them.

**Chapter 12:**

Verse 7: Ezekiel is given something else to act out. This will happen when Jerusalem falls to Babylon and we can read about it in Jeremiah 39:4-7.

Verse 21-25: The people were hearing the warnings from the prophets but since they hadn’t happened yet, they didn’t believe them. God was patient with them and they took this as the word of God wasn’t for them. They were wrong.

**Chapter 14**

Verse 7: Once again, the people of God were worshiping God and false idols. God does not want to share His glory with something made with hands.

Verses 14 and 20: While the prophet Daniel was alive during this time, the Hebrew spelling of the name Daniel is different than what is used for the prophet Daniel indicating he may not be the person mentioned here.

**Chapter 16**

Verse 1-14: God is talking about all He has done for Israel. How they were a helpless infant who could only survive with outside help. And more than that, they grew up to be strong and well adorned. In Return, the people were unfaithful to God.

Verses 15-43: The people used the good things of God and used them to be unfaithful.

Verse 63: Even with all the unfaithfulness, God will atone for all their sin. Ultimately, Jesus’s blood atones for the forgiveness of sins for those who have faith in Him as Lord and Savior.

**Chapter 20**

Verse 31: The people sacrificed their own kids and still were inquiring of God. Another example of the people worshiping God and idols.

**Chapter 23**

Verse 39: On the same day they sacrificed their own children, they went to “church”. They went to the Temple to worship God.

Verse 45: The punishment for adultery and murder was death.

**Chapter 25-32**

 Ezekiel is going to announce judgments on nations around Judah for their sins as well. Jeremiah did the same thing at the end of his book.

**Chapters 26-28**

God spends these chapters on one nation- Tyre. The King of Tyre was claiming to be a god (28:2). They also had pride due to their wealth as a city that was a trade center for many nations.

**Chapter 34**

Verse 4: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who searches for the one lost sheep.

Chapter 39

Verse 24: God punished Israel for their sins. God didn’t bring this punishment because He is “mean”. This all happened because of the repeated sins of the people.

**Chapters 40-48**

You can skim these chapters. The end of the book of Ezekiel was a vision of a new Temple. This Temple has not been built and there are differences of thought on if it ever will be built. Is this a literal temple? Is this temple representing how God will once again dwell with His people? Is this temple symbolic of heaven? Many thoughts with no consensus on which of these it is.

**Chapter 40:48 and 41:2-3**

As you move further into this temple, the doors get more narrow.

**Chapter 43:**

Verses 1-12: The glory of God returns to the temple. In Chapters 10 and 11, we read how the glory of the Lord left the temple. In 11:22-23, we see the glory of the Lord leave the city to the east. Here in 43:1, we see the glory of God return from the east. See also 44:1-2.

Verses 13-25: There will be sacrifices at this temple. This would be a reason why one might say this is not a literal temple. There is no longer need for animal sacrifice because Jesus is our ultimate sacrifice.

**Chapter 47**

Verses 1-12: This chapter talks about a river that had miraculous properties. It made salt water fresh. There will be trees growing on each side of the river that bear fruit every month. The leaves of these trees will be used for healing. In Revelation 22, we see a river that is called the River of Life that flows from the throne of God and the tree of life on either side of the river. The leaves of the trees will be used for healing.

 This connection seems to indicate that Ezekiel’s Temple is symbolic of God’s presence which we will fully experience in heaven. In Revelation 22:1-2 we read about the River of Life. And then we read this in Revelation 22:3-4: 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

**Chapter 48**

The closing words of this vision and the book of Ezekiel says, “The Lord is there” God will bring His wrath but there will also be grace following that wrath. Today, we have that grace in and through Jesus Christ.