Ezekiel Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

- Ezekiel is one of those rare studies. It's a book that has been so abused by a lot of people.
- If you take scripture out of context, you can, as somebody says, teach anything you want to teach, Bible prove anything you want to prove if you misuse it.
- Not only will you grasp what is behind this great prophet called Ezekiel, but also you'll see how it fits really into the context of the Word of God.

1 How Ezekiel Fits Into the History

2 Kings 21:9–11; 2 Kings 24:3–4; Isaiah 36

- What really important event happened with the people of God during the time of Isaiah. It was the northern ten tribes that fell.
- Manasseh, what he went a step farther than others is that he even encouraged them to sacrifice their own children in the fire.
- Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.
- Surely at the commandment of the Lord … came upon Judah to remove them from his sight because of the sins of Manasseh.

2 Three Prophets at the Midnight Hour of Judah

Jeremiah 22:28–30; Matthew 1:11; 2 Kings 24:10–16

- Jeremiah called Nebuchadnezzar God's servant.
- In 606 BC, Daniel is taken captive, and a few others.
- The second remnant of God's people now taken in 597. And it's in this time that Ezekiel is taken.
- These three prophets, you might say, are fairly contemporary. And they're at the midnight hour of Judah.

3 God Is Concerned About Attitudes of His People

- We have to guard our hearts.
- God is concerned about attitudes of his people. He is full of mercy and is full of grace and love. But he also wants people simply to give their hearts in obedience to him.
- The first 24 chapters of our study of Ezekiel, you're going to see Ezekiel dealing with the attitudes of God's people.

4 God Will Bring His People Back

Jeremiah 24; Jeremiah 25:11; Genesis 12:3

- God's going to use Nebuchadnezzar. You are going to fall as a people, but God will remember and will bring them back 70 years later.
- Doesn't fit today as though there's some Jews yet to go back to Israel. That's completely taking Ezekiel out of context.
- They were God's chosen people to be the family out of which the Savior of the world would be come.
- There would always be a faithful remnant.

5 Key Expressions: The Word of the Lord Came

- The appeal was it's not my word, it's the word of the Lord. 49 times.
- Son of Man, is an expression found 93 times in the book of Ezekiel. And refers to Ezekiel himself.
- The expression, ye shall know that I am the Lord. Sixty-three times.
- One of the strongest things about when you study the Old Testament is to know God's mighty power is in control.

6 Symbolic Acts and Parables

Ezekiel 4:1–3; Ezekiel 4:4–8

- So he uses illustrations. You've got to stop and say, Well, what is that illustration?
- God has gone through Ezekiel and through an illustration of a symbolic act, trying to teach the people.
- God wanted you to be a fruitful people to the Lord. You're not fruitful.
- The captivity of Jerusalem is going to be so astonishing to the people of Israel.

MY NOTES