

EZEKIEL

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To announce the judgment of God on Judah and other nations and to foretell the eventual salvation of God's people.

Author

Ezekiel, the son of Buzi.

Date

Written c.571 BC.

Audience

The Jews in captivity in Babylon and to God's people everywhere.

Setting

Ezekiel was a younger contemporary of Jeremiah. Having been taken to Babylon in 597 BC, he prophesied to those already exiled after the defeat of Jehoiachin, while Jeremiah ministered to the people still in Judah.

Special Features

Ezekiel spoke to a people who had broken faith with their God. He spoke oracles that vindicate the reputation of this holy God. Therefore, the primary purpose of Ezekiel's message was to restore God's glory before the people who had spurned it in view of the watching nations.



Key Verses

"Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?" (33:11 ESV)

"I will take you from the nations ... and bring you into your own land ... and give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you." (36:24,26a ESV)

"Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live." (37:4-5 ESV)

Key People

Ezekiel, Israel's leaders, Ezekiel's wife, Nebuchadnezzar, "the prince".

Key Places

Jerusalem, Babylon, Egypt.