

Ezekiel 1- 12

Traditional Author: Ezekiel. **Approximate Time of Writing:** 593 - 571 B.C.

General Content: Historical Narrative and Prophecy. Ezekiel contains some of the most mystic prophetic encounters and words ever recorded. It is full of amazing encounters with God and symbolism that stretches the imagination. His portrayal of the rebuilt Temple has given rise to many different interpretations that are unresolved up to now.

Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel were contemporaries. Ezekiel and Daniel wrote from outside of Israel, among the refugees living in Babylon and Jeremiah wrote from within Jerusalem. Together, they have been called the “**prophets of captivity**” because they ministered during the years of Babylonian conquest. His amazing symbolic prophetic acts often portrayed living parables about what the Lord intended to do. His life and ministry were filled with visions and angelic encounters that were beyond the capacity of human words to adequately explain. His revelation of the holiness of God, as proclaimed by incredible eternal beings, is among the most awe inspiring ever written.

Chapter 1 The appearance of four “living creatures.”

v. 1-3 Ezekiel’s ministry begins.

v. 6 Each of them had four faces and four wings.

v. 10 Are they all Cherubs and are they all created equal?

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament on “Cherub” and “Cherubim”

“The name of various representations of angelic beings which are represented as part human, part animal. Usually used in the plural, cherubim. The English, “*cherubims*,” uses a superfluous plural ending.” They first appear in Genesis 3:24 guarding Eden. (See *Eze. 1, 9, 10, 11, 28 & 41*)

Ezek 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the **face of a man**, and the **face of a lion**, on the right side: and they four had the **face of an ox** on the left side; they four also had the **face of an eagle**. KJV

a. **Man** b. **Lion** c. **Ox** d. **Eagle**

a. **Each had four wings.**

b. **Each one had all four faces.**

Ezek 10:1 I looked, and I saw the likeness of a **throne** of lapis lazuli above the vault that was over the heads of the **cherubim**...15 Then the cherubim rose upward. **These were the living creatures** I had seen by the Kebar River. NIV

Ezek 10:12 And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were **full of eyes round about**,...14 And every one had **four faces**: the first face was the **face of a cherub**, and the second face was the **face of a man**, and the third the **face of a lion**, and the fourth the **face of an eagle**. KJV

- a. Man b. Lion c. Eagle d. Cherub
- a. Four wings.
- b. Each have four faces, but the previous Ox face is replaced with a Cherub face.

Ezek 41:18 And it was made with **cherubims** and palm trees, so that a palm tree was between a cherub and a cherub; and every cherub had **two faces**; 19 So that the **face of a man** was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the **face of a young lion** toward the palm tree on the other side: KJV

- a. Man b. Young Lion
- a. No wings are mentioned
- b. Each has the two faces of a Man and a Young Lion.

Revelation 4:6 Also in front of **the throne** there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. **In the center, around the throne**, were **four living creatures**, and they were **covered with eyes**, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a **lion**, the second was like an **ox**, the third had a face like a **man**, the fourth was like a flying **eagle**. 8 Each of the four living creatures had **six wings** and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty**," who was, and is, and is to come." NIV

- a. Man b. Lion c. Eagle d. Ox
- a. Six wings
- b. Each has only one of the four faces.
- c. It says they were "Covered with eyes" in the front and back.

Also see: **Isaiah 6:2** Above him were **seraphim**, each with **six wings**: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty**; the whole earth is full of his glory." NIV

v. 26-28 **The Throne and the Rainbow-radiant man with legs like burning fire.**

Eze 1:26 high above on the **throne** was a figure **like that of a man**. 27 I saw that **from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal**, as if full of fire, and that **from there down he looked like fire**; and brilliant light surrounded him. 28 **Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him**. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and **I heard the voice** of one speaking. NIV

Daniel 10:5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and **legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude**. NIV

Revelation 1:13 There was someone like the Son of Man among the lamp stands. He was wearing a robe that reached his feet. He wore a gold belt around his waist. 14 His head and his hair were white like wool-like snow. His eyes were like flames of fire. 15 **His feet were like glowing bronze refined in a furnace. His voice** was like the sound of raging waters. NIV

Rev. 4:2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a **throne** in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. **A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.** NIV

Chapter 2 Ezekiel's commission to Israel.

v. 1-2 The "Spirit" entered into Ezekiel.

v. 3-8 He is commissioned as a prophet to the captives of Israel.

v. 9-10 A supernatural hand was extended with a Scroll in it.

Chapter 3 The Little Scroll.

v. 1-3 Ezekiel is given the Scroll to eat that symbolizes the Word of God.

v. 4 After eating the Scroll he's told to go prophesy to Israel

Eze 3:1 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, **eat this scroll**; then go and **speak to the people of Israel.**" 2 So I opened my mouth, and **he gave me the scroll to eat.** 3 Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." **So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.** 4 He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and **speak my words to them.**

Revelation 10:8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take **the scroll** that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me **the little scroll.** He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but 'in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.'" 10 I took **the little scroll** from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as **sweet** as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned **sour.** 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." (Note: sweet = word of God. Bitterness/sour = judgement) NIV

v. 10-11 The Lord will open Ezekiel's heart, ears and fill his mouth.

v. 12-14 The Holy Spirit took Ezekiel up and the Lord's hand was on him.

v. 15 Ezekiel was overwhelmed for 7 days after receiving this vision.

v. 17-21 If Ezekiel didn't speak God's words, Israel's blood would be on him.

v. 22-25 Another amazing encounter and Holy Spirit filling.

v. 26-27 God made Ezekiel mute, except when he was to prophesy. (See Eze 33:22)

Chapter 4 A Prophetic siege of Jerusalem by Ezekiel.

v. 1-3 Ezekiel is told to draw the city of Jerusalem with a surrounding army.

v. 4-5 Lay on your left side for 390 days of siege against Israel.

v. 6 Lay on your right side for 40 days of siege against Judah, each day is a year.

v. 9 Ezekiel Bread recipe, wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt.

Chapter 5 A Prophetic haircut representing Jerusalem's Judgement.

- v. 1-2 Ezekiel is told to cut his hair and divide it into three three equal parts.
- v. 3-4 A few hairs are symbolically burned representing some of Israel.
- v. 12 A third will die with famine, a third with sword, a third will be scattered.

Chapter 6 The Mountains of Israel (see Eze 35-36)

- v. 1-4 A prophecy is given to an area identified as the "mountains of Israel."
Note: Area same as the "West Bank" includes Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Bethel.
- v. 8-9 The Jews who escape will remember God among the Nations.

Chapter 7 The Judgement of Jerusalem is prophesied.

- v. 2 The end is near for the promised land.
- v. 26-27 Disaster is coming and the prophets nor elders will save Judah.

Chapter 8 An amazing prophetic journey begins.

- v. 1 Ezekiel is sitting in his house with the Elders when God's hand fell on him.
- v. 2 The golden burning man from chapter 1 appears. (See Rev 10:1)
Eze 1:26 high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. 27..from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. NIV
- v. 3 The man took Ezekiel by the hair and the Holy Spirit took him to Jerusalem.
Ezek 8:3 He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, NIV
- v. 7-8 He is instructed to dig a hole in the wall of the Temple.
- v. 11-12 The seventy members "Elders" of the Sanhedrin.

Chapter 9 The spiritual beings with authority over Jerusalem.

- v. 1 Supernatural men with authority over Jerusalem are called forth.
- v. 2 Six men with weapons and 1 man with a writing instrument appear.
- v. 3 Apparently the cherubim carried His Throne.
- v. 4 The writing man is instructed to mark those who still serve Yahweh.
Revelation 7:2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." NIV

Eze 9:3 Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side 4 and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it." NIV

- v. 5-7 The other six beings are told to kill everyone who isn't marked.

Chapter 10 The glory of the Lord departs from the Temple.

v. 1 A Throne appears.

v. 2-4 The glory of the Lord filled the Temple.

v. 12 The cherubs were covered in eyes everywhere.

Revelation 4:6 Also in front of **the throne** there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were **four living creatures**, and **they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.** NIV

v. 14 Each of the cherubim had four faces. (See Ezekiel 1:10)

v. 18 Mounted on the cherubim, The Glory of Yahweh departed.

v. 20 The cherubim are the living creatures he saw in chapter 1.

Chapter 11 Ezekiel prophetically pronounces death on a man.

v. 1 The Holy Spirit again transports Ezekiel, this time to the Eastern Gate.

v. 4 He is instructed to prophesy against some wicked leaders.

v. 13 As he prophesied, one of the men was struck and died.

v. 19-20 A prophecy about the New Covenant. (See Jer. 31:31-33)

Ezekiel 11:19 I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. NIV

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;** I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. NIV

v. 23 The glory of the Lord left the city of Jerusalem.

v. 24-25 The Holy Spirit returned Ezekiel to his house in Babylon.

Chapter 12 Judgement will not be postponed.

v. 1 The Lord instructs His Prophet to act out events that will occur in Jerusalem.

v. 2-7 Ezekiel is told to symbolize Jerusalem's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar by planning an escape representing what Zedekiah would actually do.

v. 8-12 The Lord explains that this prophecy is about to become reality.

v. 13 Zedekiah will somehow be carried into captivity but not see Babylon.

Ezekiel 12:13 I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare; **I will bring him to Babylonia**, the land of the Chaldeans, **but he will not see it**, and there he will die. NIV

Jeremiah 34:3 You will not escape from his grasp but will surely be captured and given into his hands. **You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes**, and he will speak with you face to face. And you will go to Babylon. NIV

Jeremiah 39:7 **Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes** and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. (See 2 Kings 25:7)

v. 17-20 A terrible, fear filled prophetic meal representing more from Jerusalem.