

**LIVING GODS WILL**

**Prophet of God**

**EZEKIEL**



**The Prophet Ezekiel by Michelangelo**

**Born:** 622 BC, Jerusalem

**Died:** 570 BC, Babylon (52 years old)

**Ezekiel** was a prophet of **God** from 592 – 570 BC.

**Ezekiel** had a vision of a **restored Jerusalem**.

**Ezekiel** authored the **Book of Ezekiel**.

**Ezekiel** preached condemnation and judgement to **Judah**.

**Ezekiel**, whose name means “**strengthened by God**,” grew up in Jerusalem, served as a priest in the temple and was among the second group of captives taken to Babylon along with King Jehoiachin.

While in Babylon he became a prophet of **God**; he is the author of the Old Testament book that bears his name. **Ezekiel's** ministry began with condemnation and judgment of the nation Judah. After the destruction of Jerusalem, **Ezekiel's** prophecies speak of hope for the future.

**Ezekiel** wanted to help the people learn from their failures. He announced impending judgment upon the nations that surrounded Judah and reestablished hope for the restoration of Israel. His vision of the valley of dry bones (**Ezekiel 37**) pictures new life being breathed into the nation, which will occur in the Millennial Reign of **Jesus** on earth.

**Ezekiel's** first vision was of **God's** throne and included the four living creatures and whirling wheels. **Ezekiel** also had detailed visions of a new temple (**Ezekiel 40–43**), a restored Jerusalem (**Ezekiel 48:30–35**), the millennium (**chapter 44**), and the land in which **God's** people will reside (**Ezekiel 47:13–23**).

Israel and Judah will once again be restored to unity from the ends of the earth as **God's** glory also returns and **God** dwells among His people. These beautiful visions of **Ezekiel** concern both the immediate and the long-term plans of **God**.

**Ezekiel** delivered **God's** messages with straightforward language that everyone could understand, whether they listened or not (**Ezekiel 2:7**). **Ezekiel** himself received a warning from **God** that, if he did not faithfully warn of the punishment for not following **God**, he would be held accountable for the blood of those who died in their sins (**Ezekiel 33:8–9**).

He did not hesitate in his mission and steadfastly followed **God's** instructions.

**Ezekiel** had a passionate view of judgment and hope, and he reflected **God's** own sorrow over the people's sins.

The prophet experienced considerable opposition during his own lifetime, yet he doggedly expressed **God's** desire that the wicked not die but turn from their wicked ways and live. His periodic speechlessness during his early years was broken when **God** empowered him to speak, and his tongue was loosened to speak the longest passage of sustained hope in the Bible.

The burning, chopping, and scattering of his hair represented the fall of Jerusalem and the bringing back of **God's** remnant (**chapter 5**). The hopeful words climax in the promise of everlasting possession of the land, an everlasting Davidic prince, an everlasting covenant, and an everlasting sanctuary in Israel (**Ezekiel 11:16-21**).

He leaps ahead to a time after Israel has been restored to the mysterious invasion from the north that will be brought by **Yahweh** against Israel, but then will be utterly defeated. This demonstrates that no enemy nation will ever invade the Holy Land again with success, and the glory of the **God** of Israel returns, entering through the east gate of the temple **Ezekiel** envisions.

**Ezekiel** has shown all Christians that we are to be obedient to **God's** call on our lives. **God** told **Ezekiel** to groan with a broken heart and bitter grief for the coming judgment, and through his dramatic book, **Ezekiel** is telling us the very same thing. This judgment is coming! It will surely take place, declares the **Sovereign Lord!** We, too, can warn others and share with them the good news of salvation in **Jesus**.

### **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

**Ezekiel 37:12** Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord.' "

**Ezekiel 11:1** Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the East Gate of the Lord's house, which faces eastward; and there at the door of the gate were twenty-five men, among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

**Ezekiel 25:16** Therefore thus says the Lord God: "I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast. I will execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I lay My vengeance upon them."

**Ezekiel 1:3** The word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.



**Ezekiel's Vision by Raphael Sanzio**