

# EZEKIEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

26

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

48

TYPE

PROPHECY, MAJOR



## OVERVIEW

Ezekiel was a priest and one of those carried away in captivity. He prophesies from captivity for a period of over 20 years. His prophecies cover a range of topics and history, and include God's explanation of His current wrath, the recent reformation of Israel, and the Millennial Kingdom.



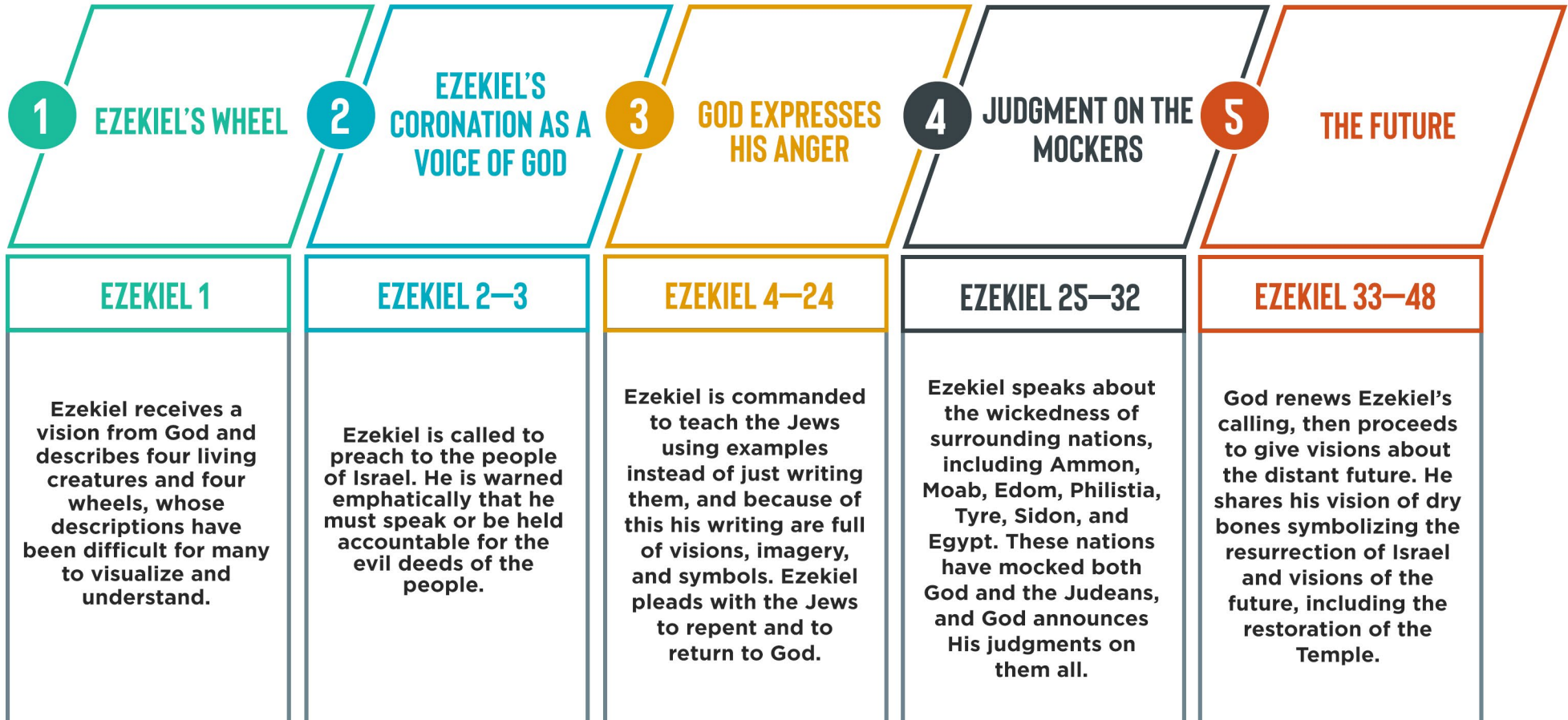
WRITTEN  
590-570 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
585 BC through the end  
of times



AUTHOR  
The Prophet  
Ezekiel



# EZEKIEL

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

**Ezekiel**

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

**Major Prophecy; Ezekiel is the third of four major prophets (including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel).**

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

**590-570 BC**



#### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Ezekiel then lived among the Jewish exiles in a riverside community south of Babylon called Tel Aviv (also spelled Tel-Abib). More than 10,000 exiled Jews had been taken there. He prophesied there for around 22 years.

He was a contemporary of the prophet Daniel, and like Daniel, made prophesies about not only the restoration of Israel, but also the end of times.



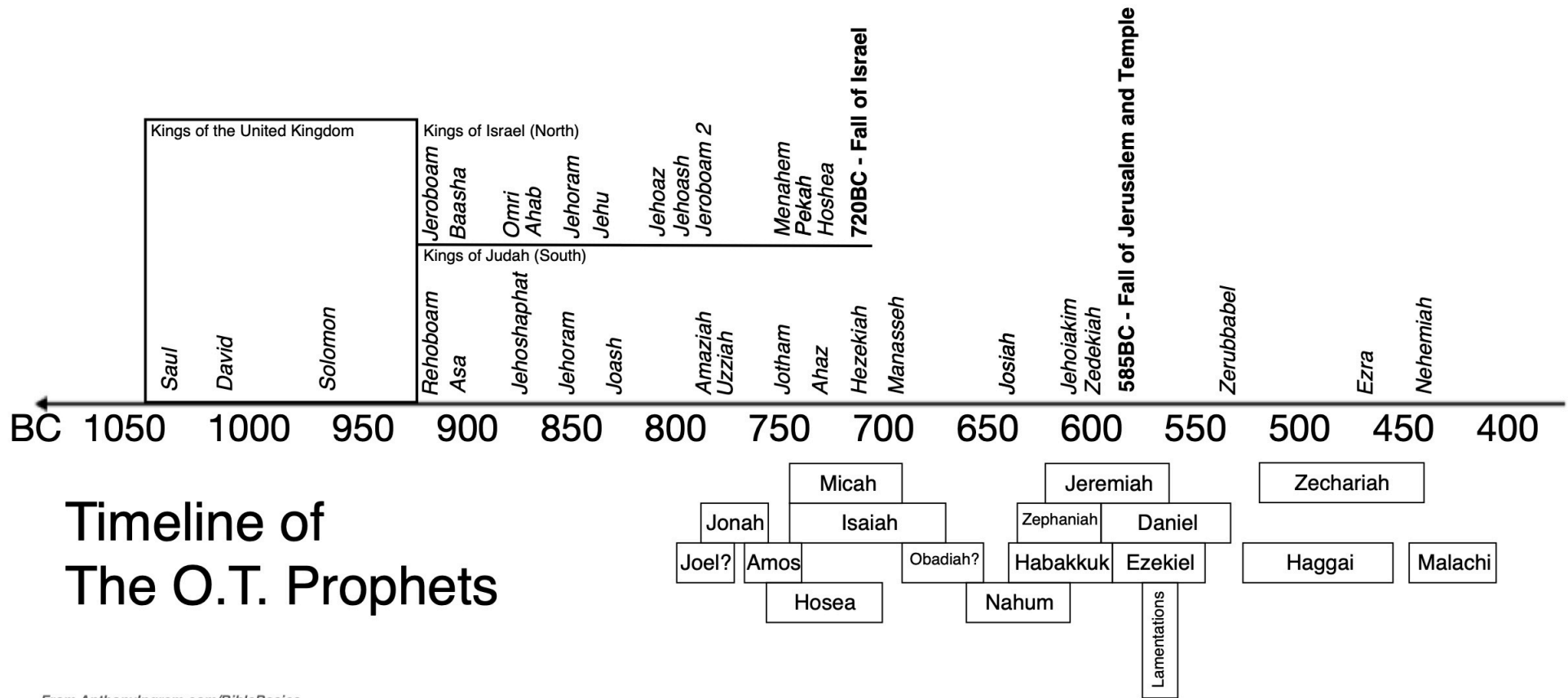
#### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Ezekiel wrote while in exile, and it is not clear whether he ever got to see Jerusalem as an adult. He spoke to people whom God had exiled due to their constant, stubborn rebellion against him. Therefore, a majority of Ezekiel's message communicates judgment for sins committed.



#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Ezekiel's prophesies were accompanied by strange, sometimes terrifying, visions. One is recorded in Ezekiel 1, a description of a flying object some have described as a UFO covered in eyes. The other, recorded in Ezekiel 37, covers the prophecy of the dead bones. In the vision, a valley filled with bones comes to life as the bones come together and begin to move around. It is a symbol of the restoration of Israel which happened in 1948.





A parable is a truth wrapped in a memorable story or word picture. It could be fictional, dramatized, or the result of a vision. Jesus gave much of His teaching through parables (see "The Parables of Jesus Christ" at Luke 8:4). So did several of the Old Testament prophets, including Ezekiel.



**1. The Wood of the Vine (Ezek. 15:1-8)**  
Symbolized the way in which Judah had become useless to the Lord and now served no other purpose than to be burned up in judgment.

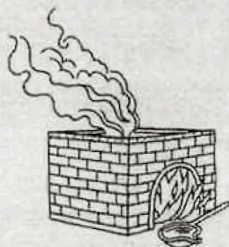


**2. The Foundling (Ezek. 16)**  
Illustrated the nation's betrayal of God's love and compassion.

**3. The Eagles and the Cedar (Ezek. 17)**  
Illustrated the foolishness of King Zedekiah, whose rebellion would bring Nebuchadnezzar's troops to destroy Jerusalem.



**4. The Fiery Furnace (Ezek. 22:17-22)**  
Explained the way in which God was going to purify His people through the "heat" of the siege of Jerusalem.



**5. The Two Harlots (Ezek. 23)**  
Symbolized the spiritual adultery of Israel and Judah.



**6. The Cooking Pot (Ezek. 24:1-14)**  
Symbolized the way in which God was going to "turn up the heat" on Jerusalem in order to cleanse it of its impurities.

**7. The Shipwreck (Ezek. 27)**  
Illustrated the judgment that was going to fall on Tyre.



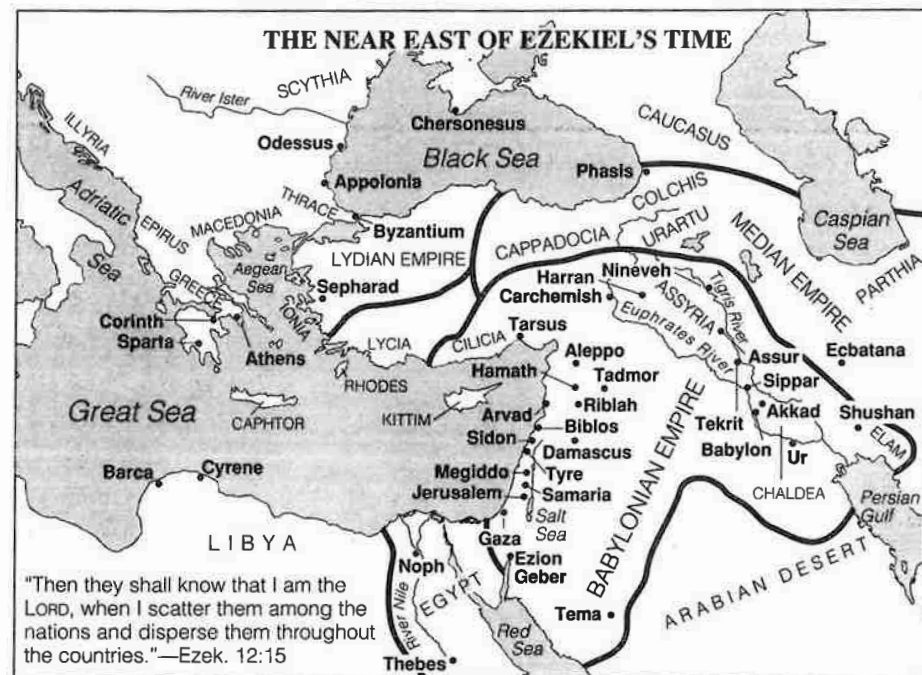
**8. The Irresponsible Shepherds (Ezek. 34)**  
Signified the worthless leaders of Jerusalem and how God would deal with them.



**9. The Dry Bones (Ezek. 37)**  
Symbolized the spiritual renewal of the nation of Israel.

Jeremiah and Zechariah were two other prophets who used parables to communicate their message. See Jer. 18:1-10 and Zech. 5:1-4.

## Scope of Ezekiel's Prophecies



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