

EZEKIEL CHAPTERS 20 – 48

Rebellion → Judgment → Restoration → God Dwelling With His People

1. JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL (Ezekiel 20–24)

- Israel continually rebels against God (Ezekiel 20).
- God reviews Israel's history of idolatry and covenant unfaithfulness.
- Judgment becomes unavoidable because of persistent rebellion (Ezekiel 21–22).
- Jerusalem is compared to a boiling pot under judgment (Ezekiel 24:1–14).
- Babylon destroys Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Ezekiel 23 — The Two Sisters

- Oholah = Samaria / Northern Kingdom of Israel (Ezekiel 23:4)
 - Oholibah = Jerusalem / Southern Kingdom of Judah (Ezekiel 23:4)
 - Spiritual adultery refers to idolatry, false worship, and trusting pagan nations instead of God.
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2. ORACLES AGAINST THE NATIONS (Ezekiel 25–32)

God is sovereign over all nations, not only Israel.

Nations Judged

- Ammon — mockery and rejoicing over Judah's fall (Ezekiel 25:1–7)
- Moab — rejecting Judah's special relationship with God (Ezekiel 25:8–11)
- Edom — revenge and violence against Judah (Ezekiel 25:12–14)
- Philistia — continual hostility and vengeance (Ezekiel 25:15–17)
- Tyre — pride, wealth, and self-exaltation (Ezekiel 26–28)
- Egypt — pride and self-reliance (Ezekiel 29–32)

The King of Tyre (Ezekiel 28)

Ezekiel 28:2 — “Yet you are a man, and not a god...”

Major interpretive views:

1. Historical View — the passage refers only to the human king of Tyre.
2. Typological / Dual Reference View — the king of Tyre is a historical ruler whose pride reflects a deeper spiritual rebellion connected to Eden imagery.

3. Satanic View — the passage directly describes Satan’s fall behind the earthly ruler.

Main themes:

- pride
 - self-exaltation
 - desire to be like God
 - rebellion leading to judgment
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3. RESTORATION (Ezekiel 33–39)

The Shepherds and the True Shepherd (Ezekiel 34)

Ezekiel 34:11 — “I myself will search for my sheep...”

- Israel’s leaders failed to shepherd God’s people faithfully.
- God promises to shepherd His people Himself.
- Fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ.

Jesus:

John 10:11 — “I am the good shepherd.”

A New Heart and Spirit (Ezekiel 36)

Ezekiel 36:26 — “I will give you a new heart...”

- God promises inward transformation.
- Connected to the New Covenant and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1–14)

Ezekiel 37:5 — “I will cause breath to enter you...”

Primary meaning:

- restoration of Israel from exile and spiritual death.

Broader biblical themes:

- resurrection
- spiritual renewal
- life through the Spirit of God

The Two Sticks (Ezekiel 37:15–28)

Ezekiel 37:22 — “I will make them one nation...”

- God reunites divided Israel and Judah.
- One people under one king from David’s line.

Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38–39)

Major interpretive views:

1. Historical/Future Nation View — Gog refers to a specific future ruler or coalition of nations.
2. Symbolic View — Gog represents the recurring pattern of rebellious nations opposing God.
3. Apocalyptic / End-Times View — Gog represents a final climactic rebellion before God’s ultimate victory.

Main point:

God defeats every rebellion raised against Him.

4. THE TEMPLE VISION (Ezekiel 40–48)

Major interpretive views:

1. Literal Future Temple View — a physical temple to exist in the future.
2. Symbolic View — the temple symbolizes God dwelling among His people.
3. Typological View — the temple points forward to greater fulfillment in Christ and His people.
4. Christological / New Creation View — the vision finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ, the Church, and the New Creation.

The Glory Returns (Ezekiel 43)

Ezekiel 43:5 — “The glory of the LORD filled the temple.”

- God’s presence returns after departing earlier in the book (Ezekiel 10).

The River from the Temple (Ezekiel 47)

Ezekiel 47:1 — water flows from the temple

- The river brings life, healing, and restoration wherever it flows.
- Connected to themes found in John 7:38 and Revelation 22:1–2.

FINAL SUMMARY

Ezekiel begins with the glory of God departing (Ezekiel 10) and ends with the glory of God returning (Ezekiel 43).

Main movement of the book:

Rebellion → Judgment → Restoration → God Dwelling With His People

Major themes fulfilled in Christ:

- The Good Shepherd (John 10)
- The New Covenant and new heart (Ezekiel 36)
- Resurrection life through the Spirit (Ezekiel 37)
- One King over one people (Ezekiel 37:24)
- God dwelling with His people forever (Ezekiel 48:35)