Walking with the Captives

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Ezekiel listens to the LORD



Ezekiel in the Valley of dry bones

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

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Sunday

God sends Ezekiel

Bible Readings: Ezekiel 1v1-3; 2v1-8; 3v 4-6, 10+11

1. Where was Ezekiel? (1v1) *Find it on a map*
2. What did he see? (1v1)
3. When? (1v1+2)
4. Who spoke to Ezekiel? (1v3)
5. Who entered into him? (2v2)
6. Who was Ezekiel sent to? (2v3)
7. Who was he NOT sent to? (3v5)
8. What did the LORD say about Israel? (2v3+4)
9. Ezekiel was to speak to them whether they would what? (2v5+7)
10. What would they know(2v5)
11. What was Ezekiel NOT to be? (2v8)
12. What was Ezekiel to do with God's Word? (3v10+11)



The prophet **Ezekiel** was the son of a priest (1v3). He was taken to Babylon under king Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24v8-17).

He lived among the captives. He is often called 'Son of man' (2v1, 3, 6+8; 3v4+10). This shows he was human.

MEANINGS:

Visions = dreams;

Expressly = clearly;

Rebellious = refusing to obey God's rules;

Rebelled = would not obey or be ruled by;

Transgressed = sinned, broke God's law;

Impudent = bold, shameless;

Stiff-hearted = stubborn;

Forbear = refuse to listen;

Dismayed = discouraged;

Strange = unknown

Answers

1) With the captives by the river Chebar; 2) Visions of God; 3) The 5th day of the 4th month in the 5th year of Jehoiachin's captivity; 4) The LORD; 5) The Spirit; 6) The Israelites; 7) People of strange speech and hard language; 8) They were rebellious nation, they transgressed against the LORD, were impudent and stiff hearted; 9) Hear or forbear; 10) There had been a prophet among them; 11) Rebellious; 12) Receive them, hear them, and tell them to the captives



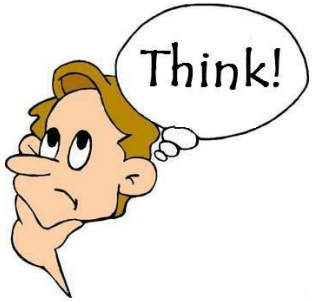
The river Chebar is Kebar on this map



Did you know?

Jehoiachin was later taken out of prison and treated kindly (2 Kings 25v27-30). This happened after Nebuchadnezzar was dead.

The captivity lasted 70 years (2 Chronicles36v21)



The LORD spoke to Ezekiel. The Spirit entered into Ezekiel (2v2). He needed the Holy Spirit to help him work for God.

Don't try to be a missionary if God hasn't sent you. And don't try to work for God without the Holy Spirit helping you.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." (Acts 1v8)



KJV Bible often puts LORD or GOD in capital letters. This is to show where the Hebrew says ‘JEHOVAH’.

Ezekiel often calls Him the Lord GOD. This is ‘Adonai Yahweh (Jehovah)’ in the Hebrew. Adonai reminds us that He rules over all. Jehovah reminds us that He is eternal....and that He always keeps His covenant.



Ezekiel’s visions



Ezekiel’s visions

Ezekiel’s visions are hard to understand. He had a vision of 4 living creatures with wings. There was fire, wheels and they moved through the air (1v4-25).

He saw the brightness of fire around the throne. He didn’t see God (cp John 1v18). But he saw the likeness of God’s glory in his vision. He fell on his face. And the LORD spoke to him (1v26-28).

Ezekiel knew the Almighty God had spoken to him. And that the LORD rules over all.



God gave a scroll to Ezekiel to eat! It had God’s Word written on it (2v9+10; 3v1-4).
He had God’s Word in him before he told it to people. Let God’s Word change you first. Then, tell it to others.

Monday

Ezekiel with the captives

Bible Readings: Ezekiel 3v14-19; 24v15-18; Psalm 137

1. Who took Ezekiel away? (3v14)
2. How did he feel? (3v14)
3. What was strong upon him? (3v14)

This shows that the LORD gave Ezekiel strength.

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4. Where did Ezekiel go? (3v15) *Find it on a map*

There were 10 000 captives. There were many craftsmen and smiths (2 Kings 24v14).

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5. What did he do for 7 days? (3v15)
6. Why did the captives weep? (Psalm 137v1)

Zion was in Jerusalem. Find it on a map

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7. What could they NOT do? (Psalm 137v4)
8. When did the LORD speak to him? (3v16)
9. What did the LORD make Ezekiel? (3v17)
10. What if Ezekiel didn't warn the wicked? (3v18)
11. Who died with a stroke? (24v16+18)
12. What was Ezekiel NOT to do? (24v16+17)

MEANINGS:

Heat of spirit = angry;

Wicked = very sinful;

Iniquity = sin;

Mirth = happiness, laughter;

Cunning = skill;

Cleave; cling;

Rase = make bare;

Tire of head = turban



Why was Ezekiel not to weep when his wife died?

Did God not care? God did care. BUT this was a sign to the people. Jerusalem would be destroyed. Many of their loved ones would die. They wouldn't be able to mourn for them. They would have to go on with life.



Ezekiel sat where the captives sat (3v15). Then, he understood what life was like for them.

Don't judge people until you sit where they sit. When you suffer heartache, pain, sickness, loneliness, death like them....you will understand how they feel.

Show people you truly care for them before you preach to them.

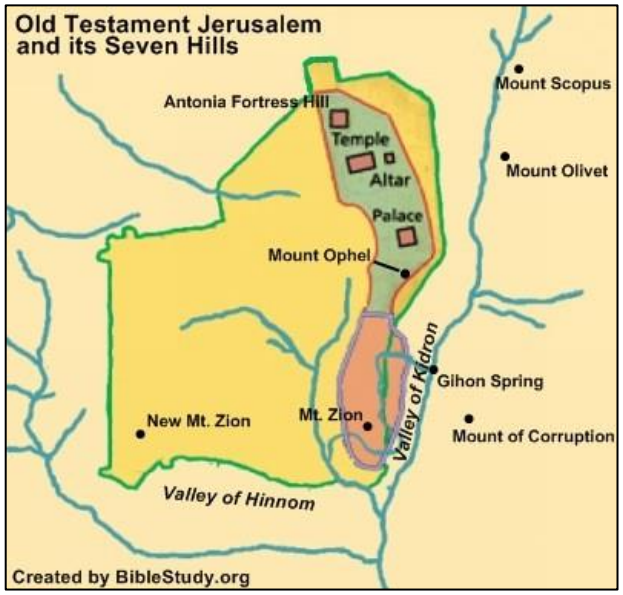


A watchman stood on the city walls. He watched for any enemies or danger. He blew his ram's horn to warn the people. If he didn't warn them, he was guilty of their blood. BUT if he warned them....and they wouldn't listen....he wasn't guilty.

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."
(Ezekiel 3v18)

Make sure nobody's blood is required at your hand!
Warn them while you have time.

"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?"
(Ezekiel 33v11)





Ezekiel was a prophet to Israel. He lived with the captives in Babylon. But he prophesied against other nations too. *Find them on a map*

1. Ammonites (25v1-7)
2. Moab (25v8-11)
3. Edom (25v12-14)
4. Philistines (25v15-17)
5. Tyre (26v1 – 28v19)
6. Sidon (28v20-26)
7. Egypt (29v1 – 32v32)



Answers

1) The Spirit; 2) Bitter and angry; 3) The hand of the LORD; 4) Telabib, by river Chebar; 5) Sat where they sat and was astonished; 6) When they remembered Zion; 7) Sing the LORD's song in a strange land; 8) After 7 days; 9) A watchman to Israel; 10) The LORD would require his blood at Ezekiel's hand; 11) Ezekiel's wife; 12) Cry, mourn for her, cover his lips, or eat

Tuesday

Vision of Idolatry in Temple

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 8v1-18

1. Where was Ezekiel? (v1)
2. Who with? (v1)
3. When? (v1)
4. What fell on him? (v1)
5. Where did the Spirit take him to? (v3)

This was a vision. He didn't actually go to Jerusalem. God showed him what was going on there.

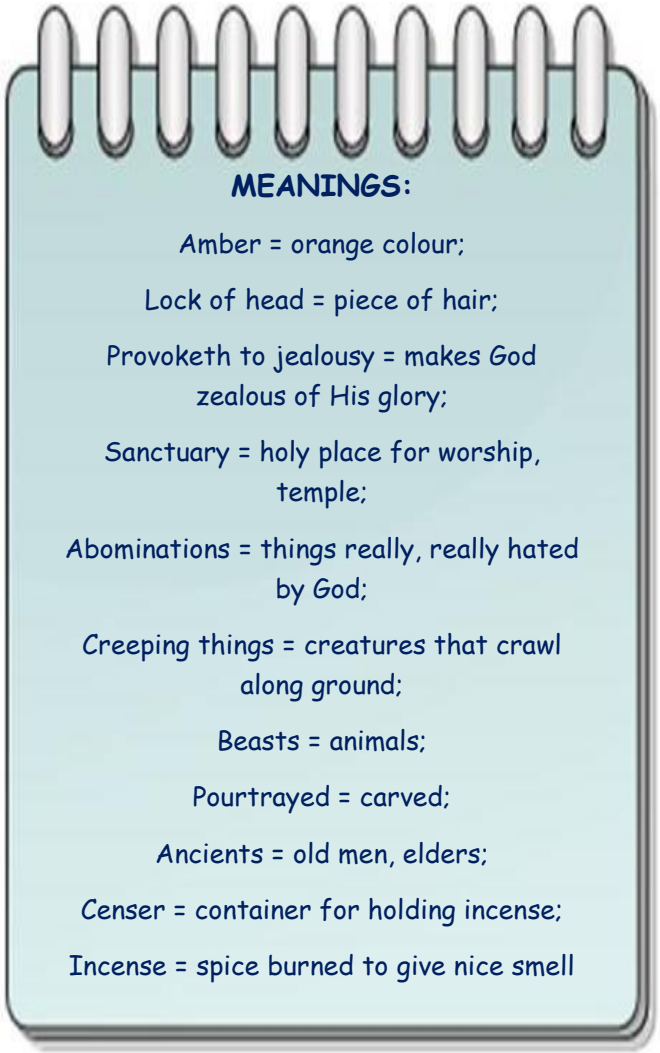
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6. What was there? (v4)
7. What did he see toward the north? (v5)

This was some idol set up in the temple. God was NOT pleased.

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8. What did he see at the door of the court? (v10)
9. What were 70 men doing? (v11)
10. Why did they do it in the dark? (v12)
11. What did he see at the north gate of the temple? (v14)
12. What did he see in the inner court of the temple? (v16)
13. What would the LORD do? (v18)



Answers

1) His house; 2) Elders of Judah; 3) The 5th day of 6th month and 6th year of captivity; 4) The hand of the Lord GOD; 5) Temple in Jerusalem; 6) The glory of God; 7) Image of jealousy at gate of altar; 8) All kinds of creeping things, abominable animals and idols carved on the wall; 9) Offering incense to them; 10) They thought the LORD didn't see them and HE had forsaken the earth; 11) Women weeping for Tammuz; 12) About 25 men worshipping the sun; 13) Deal in fury with them



Did you know?

Tammuz was a Babylonian shepherd-god.

The story goes: He married the goddess Ishtar. A wild boar killed him. Ishtar went to the underworld to save him. So, every year people mourned for him. Also, wrong sexual relations were often in their worship of Tammuz.

Creeping and abominable beasts are called unclean (Leviticus 11). This meant they were not to be sacrificed to God. So, they should not be in the temple. Sadly, they were carved on the walls. They worshipped images of creatures instead of the Creator (Romans 1v23).

They had set up the image of jealousy in the temple (v3). They carved idols on the walls (v10). They worshipped the god Tammuz (v14).

They turned their backs on the LORD to worship the sun (v16).

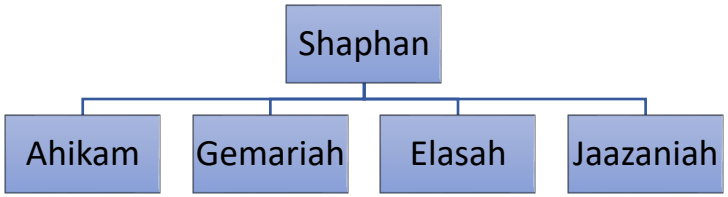


Who was Jaazaniah? *(v11)*

Jaazaniah was the son of Shaphan the scribe. Shaphan had read the book of the law to king Josiah (2 Kings 22v8-10).

Jaazaniah had 3 brothers:

1. *Ahikam was one of the men king Josiah sent to the prophetess Huldah (2 Kings 22v12; 2 Chronicles 34v20).*
2. *Gemariah tried to stop Jehoiakim burning the scroll (Jeremiah 36v12+25)*
3. *Elasah took Jeremiah's letter to captives in Babylon (Jeremiah 29v3)*





Stop and Think!

Jaazaniah came from a good family. But he chose to worship idols.

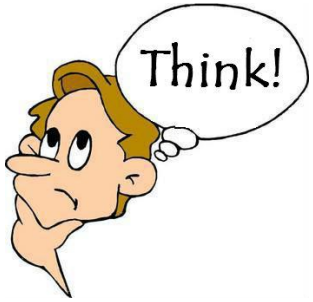
You may have a family that loves the LORD. But that doesn't make you ready for heaven. You still must choose Christ OR your sin.



Ezekiel saw the likeness of God (v2). This was like what he saw before (1v27). He didn't see God in all His glory (cp John 1v18).

God is HOLY. He CANNOT sin. He must punish sin. God's 1st and 2nd commandments were broken.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." (Exodus 20v4+5)



They worshipped idols in the dark, in secret (v12). But they couldn't hide from God.

You CANNOT hide your secret idols and sins from God.

Wednesday

Man with the Ink Pot

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 9v1-11

1. Who was to draw near? (v1)
2. How many came? (v2)
3. What did they have with them? (v2)
4. What did one man have? (v2)
5. Where did they stand? (v2)

Sacrifices to God were made on the brazen altar.

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6. What appeared at the temple door? (v3)
7. What was the man with the ink horn to do? (v3+4)
8. What were the others to do? (v5+6)
9. Where were they to begin? (v6)
10. What did Ezekiel do? (v8)
11. Why would the LORD not have pity? (v9+10)
12. Which man came back? (v11)

Answers

1) Those that were in charge of the city; 2) 6 men; 3) Slaughter weapon; 4) Writer's ink horn; 5) Beside the brazen altar; 6) The glory of God; 7) Go through Jerusalem and put mark on forehead of every man that sigh and cry over the abominations done there; 8) Kill everyone who hadn't a mark on their forehead; 9) God's sanctuary; 10) Fell on His face and cried to the Lord God not to destroy all the people; 11) The sin of Judah was very great, the land was full of blood, and the city full of perverseness; 12) Man clothed in linen with ink horn

MEANINGS:

Inkhorn = ink container made from a horn;

Threshold = doorstep;

Utterly = completely;

Defile = make unholy;

Exceeding = very much;

Reported = told what was done;

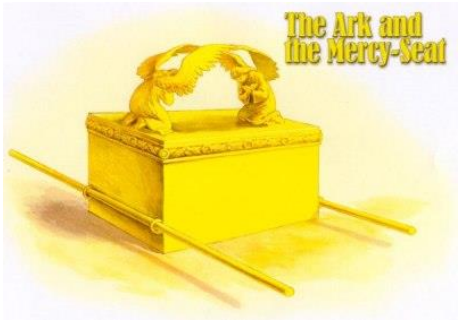
Perverseness = great wrong;

Recompense = repay



The prophet **Ezekiel** was not hard-hearted. He cared for the people. He fell on his face and cried to the LORD (v8).

There were 25 bad leaders (11v1-3). They did much wrong and led the people wrong. Ezekiel spoke against them. Pelatiah died. And Ezekiel fell on his face and cried to the LORD again (11v13).



The Glory of God

*When Moses led the Israelites through the wilderness they built the **Tabernacle**. When they set it up, the glory of the LORD filled it (Exodus 40v35).*

The Ark of the Covenant was put in the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle. The Holy God was dwelt between the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25v22).

*Years later Solomon built the **Temple**. The glory of the LORD filled it (1 Kings 8v6-11). The Holy God was present there.*

Ezekiel saw the glory of God leave the temple.
First, it moved to the threshold of the temple (9v3; 10v4). Then, it stood over the cherubim at the east gate (10v18+19). Next, the glory of the LORD stood on the mountain east of the city (11v23). This is the Mount of Olives.

The glory of God left the temple. The LORD wasn't present there anymore. Idolatry was there instead. Idolatry is sin.

*But Ezekiel says a **New Temple** will be built. The glory of the LORD will be there (43v1-5).*

*Today, the **Temple of the Holy Spirit** is the body of Christians (1 Corinthians 6v19).*

A true Christian can never lose their salvation. But they can let something take God's place in their life. Then, they won't have the full joy of God's presence in their lives.



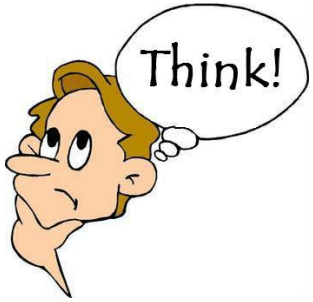
Stop and Think!

Not everyone worshipped idols. Some people were very sad at all the idol worship. They got a mark and were saved.

Does sin make you sad?

There were 6 men sent out. But only the man with the inkhorn came back. He did what the LORD commanded him (v11).

Has God sent you to do some work? Have you done what the Lord commanded you?

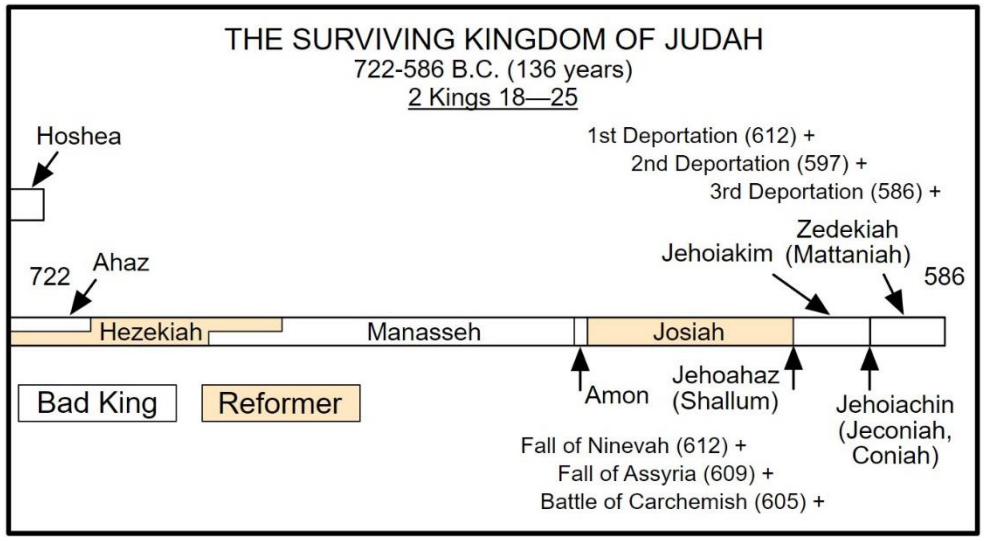


The LORD said to begin at His sanctuary (v6). There was idol worship there.

You may be a Christian and go to church. BUT is there some idol in your heart....something that you love more than God? What if God were to judge you for it?

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4v17)





Thursday

Ezekiel gets ready to move

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 12v1-16

Ezekiel is back with the captives after his visions of Jerusalem (11v24+25)

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1. Who did Ezekiel live among? (v2)
2. What was he to do? (v3)
3. When? (v3, 4+7)
4. How? (v5-7)
5. Who was he a sign to? (v6+10)
6. What would happen to them? (v11)

This was a prophecy for the Jews still in Jerusalem. Ezekiel came to Babylon with Jehoiachin's captivity (1v1-3). More people would go into captivity with king Zedekiah.

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7. What would happen to the prince? (v12)
8. Where would he die? (v13)
9. What would he NOT be able to do? (v13)
10. What would happen to the rest? (v14+15)
11. Why would the LORD leave a few people? (v16)
12. What would they know? (v15+16)

MEANINGS:

Twilight = almost dark;

Bear = carry;

Burden = load;

Snare = trap;

Bands = groups of troops;

Pestilence = disease;

Heathen = those who don't worship the LORD;



These words are written many times in the book of Ezekiel: "They shall know that I am the LORD." (v15+16)

They show that the LORD is Almighty. He rules over all. BUT the people will know the LORD judging them.

Answers

1) A rebellious people; 2) Prepare stuff to move; 3) During day and evening at twilight; 4) Dig through the wall and carry it on his shoulders; 5) The house of Israel; 6) They would be taken into captivity; 7) Dig through wall, carry things on his shoulders and caver his face; 8) Babylon; 9) See it; 10) They would be scattered among nations and countries; 11) To tell their abominations among the heathen; 12) God is the LORD



Message to the Shepherds

(Ezekiel 34)

Bad shepherds didn't feed the sheep. They didn't care for the sick and wounded ones. They ruled them with force and cruelty. They killed them. But they fed themselves and took the best stuff from the flock (v1-4).

The bad shepherds here were the leaders of Israel. The sheep were the people of Israel. The leaders and priests didn't feed them God's Word....or lead them right.
Read about the sins of the prophets, priests, princes and people (22v26-31)

The sheep were scattered. This is Israel scattered in captivity....and among nations.

But the LORD is the Good Shepherd. He was going to go after them....and seek them out.
He will bring them back to their land (v13).

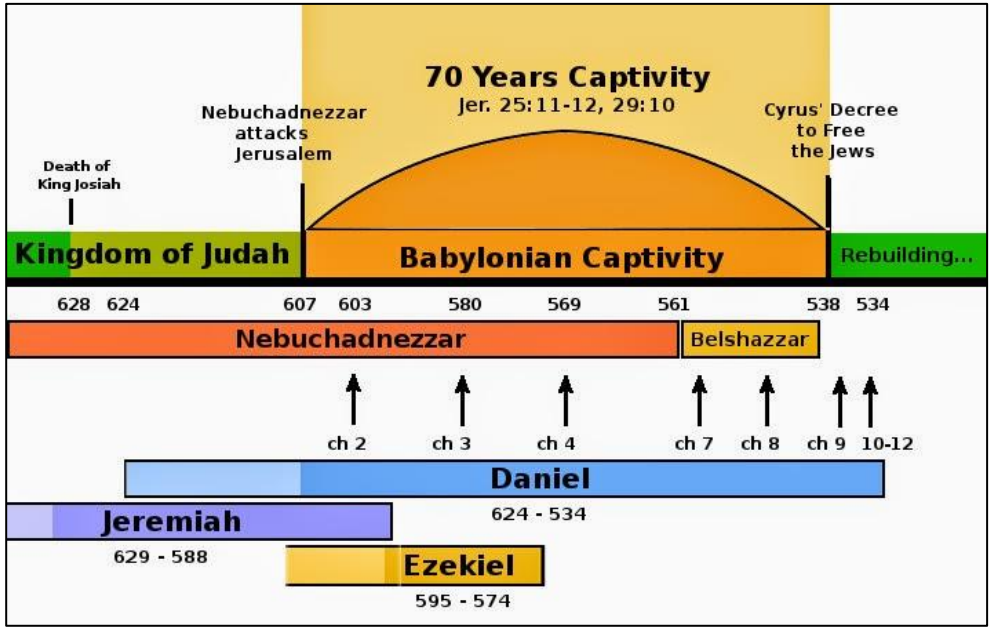
"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out." (Ezekiel 34v11)

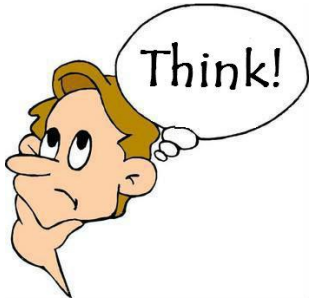


Did you know?

King Zedekiah is the prince (v12+13). He tried to escape from Nebuchaddnezzar at night....through a hole in the wall near a gate.

Zedekiah's sons were killed in front of him. Then, he had his eyes put out. He was bound in chains and taken to Babylon. He died in Babylon (2 Kings 15v1-7 and Jeremiah 52v4-11).

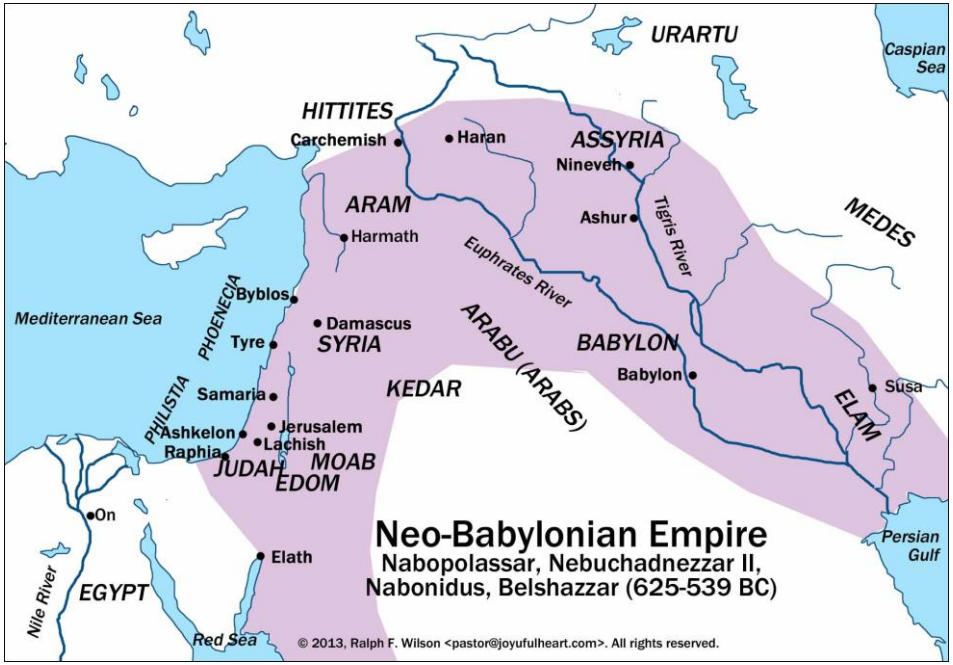




Ezekiel was a sign to the people of Israel (v6). God was using what Ezekiel did to get them to listen.

Sometimes we are the only Bible people will ever read. Some people won't read God's Word. But they watch our lives.

What kind of message does your life give?



Friday

Valley of Dry Bones

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 37v1-14

(cp. Ezekiel 36v19, 24+28)

1. What was upon Ezekiel? (v1)
2. How was he carried? (v1)
3. Where to? (v1)
4. What did the LORD ask him? (v3)
5. What did Ezekiel say? (v3)
6. So, what was Ezekiel to do? (v4)
7. What would they hear? (v4)
8. What happened as Ezekiel prophesied? (v7+8)
9. What happened as he prophesied to the wind? (v9+10)
10. What did they become? (v10)
11. What were the bones like? (v11)
12. Where would the LORD bring them? (v12+14)
13. What would the LORD put in them? (v14)

Answers

1) The hand of the LORD; 2) In the Spirit of the LORD; 3) Valley full of dry bones; 4) Can these bones live? 5) O Lord GOD, thou knowest; 6) Prophecy to the bones; 7) The word of the LORD; 8) There was a noise and a shaking, the bones came together, and sinews, flesh and skin came on them; 9) Breath came into them and they stood up; 10) An exceeding great army; 11) The house of Israel; 12) Into the land of Israel; 13) His Spirit

MEANINGS:

Dry bones = bones bleached or baked in hot sun;

Prophesy = speak what God says;

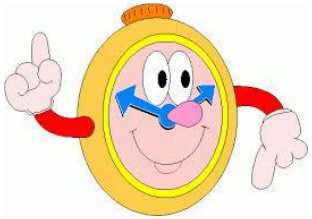
Sinews = strong substance that connects muscles to bones;



God will make Israel a mighty nation

They were scattered into captivity and across the world. Things seemed hopeless for them.

But God gave them their land again. He will bring many Jews back to Israel. He will make them a mighty army.



Watch for it!

Many nations will go to fight against Israel. You can read about them in Ezekiel 38.

Can you find these names ... Gog, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Sheba, Dedan and Tarshish?

A few of them are shown on this map. This great battle has yet to happen.





Feast of fowls

(Ezekiel 39)

There is going to be a big battle against Israel. The nations that come against Israel will NOT win! The birds will eat the dead bodies.

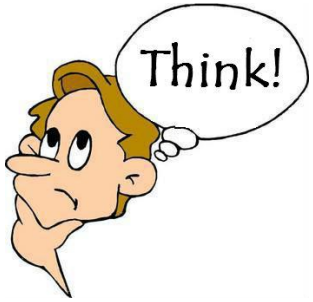


"And ye shall know that I am the LORD." (v6+13)

The LORD is Almighty. He rules over all. He will make Israel mighty.

He will judge the nations that come against Israel.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1v12)



Are you dry and dead spiritually? You were once full of life and busy working for God. But now you've lost all that zeal. Things seem hopeless for you.

Can you live for the Lord again? Yes! You need the Holy Spirit to breathe His power into you!



Saturday

River of waters

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 47v1-12

Other Readings: Ezekiel 44v1-3; 48v35

1. What was Ezekiel taken to? (v1)
2. Where did water come from? (v1)
3. Where to? (v2+3)
4. How far did a man measure? (v3)
5. How deep were the waters? (v3)
6. How many more times did he measure 1000 cubits? (v4+5)
7. How deep were the waters each time? (v4+5)
8. What were on the river bank? (v7)
9. What will happen to the Dead Sea? (v8)

The sea (v8) is the Dead Sea. The Great Sea id the Mediterranean Sea.

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10. Where will there be fishermen? (v10)

Eneglaim is somewhere near the Dead Sea. Find Engedi on a map

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11. Who will enter in by the Eastern gate? (44v3)
12. Who is there? (48v35)

Answers

1) The door of the temple; 2) South side of the altar; 3) Out of the north gate toward the east; 4) 1000 cubits; 5) To his ankles; 6) 3 times; 7) To the knees, then to the loins, and then deep enough to swim in; 8) Many trees; 9) Its waters would be healed; 10) From Engedi to Eneglaim; 11) The prince; 12) The LORD

MEANINGS:

Issued = flowed;

Threshold = doorstep;

Forefront = out front;

Cubit = about 18 inches;

Loins = waist;

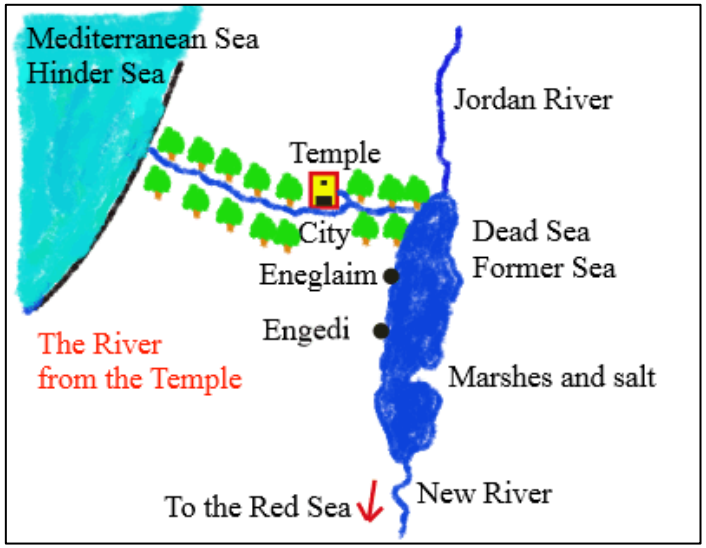
Brink = edge, bank;

Miry = soft wet ground;

Marishes = swamps;

Consumed = fail;

Meat = food

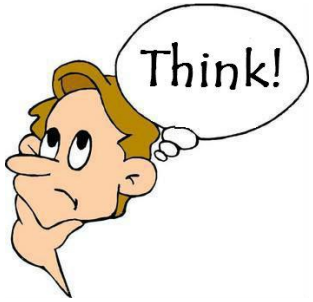




En-egla'im. *(fountain of the two calves). A place named only by Ezekiel (see Ezekiel 47v10), apparently as on the Dead Sea; but whether near to or far from* ***Engedi****, on the east or the west side of the sea, it is impossible to ascertain. (source: biblebento.com/maps).*

Hence, the 2 different locations on the maps





This was no burst pipe or plumbing leak. These waters brought healing and life.

The Lord can give us living water. It heals us from sin and gives us new life in Christ.

But the Lord wants the healing waters from Him to flow out from us to others.

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive." (John 7v37-39)



The prophet **Ezekiel** prophesied some things that will happen in Israel in the future:

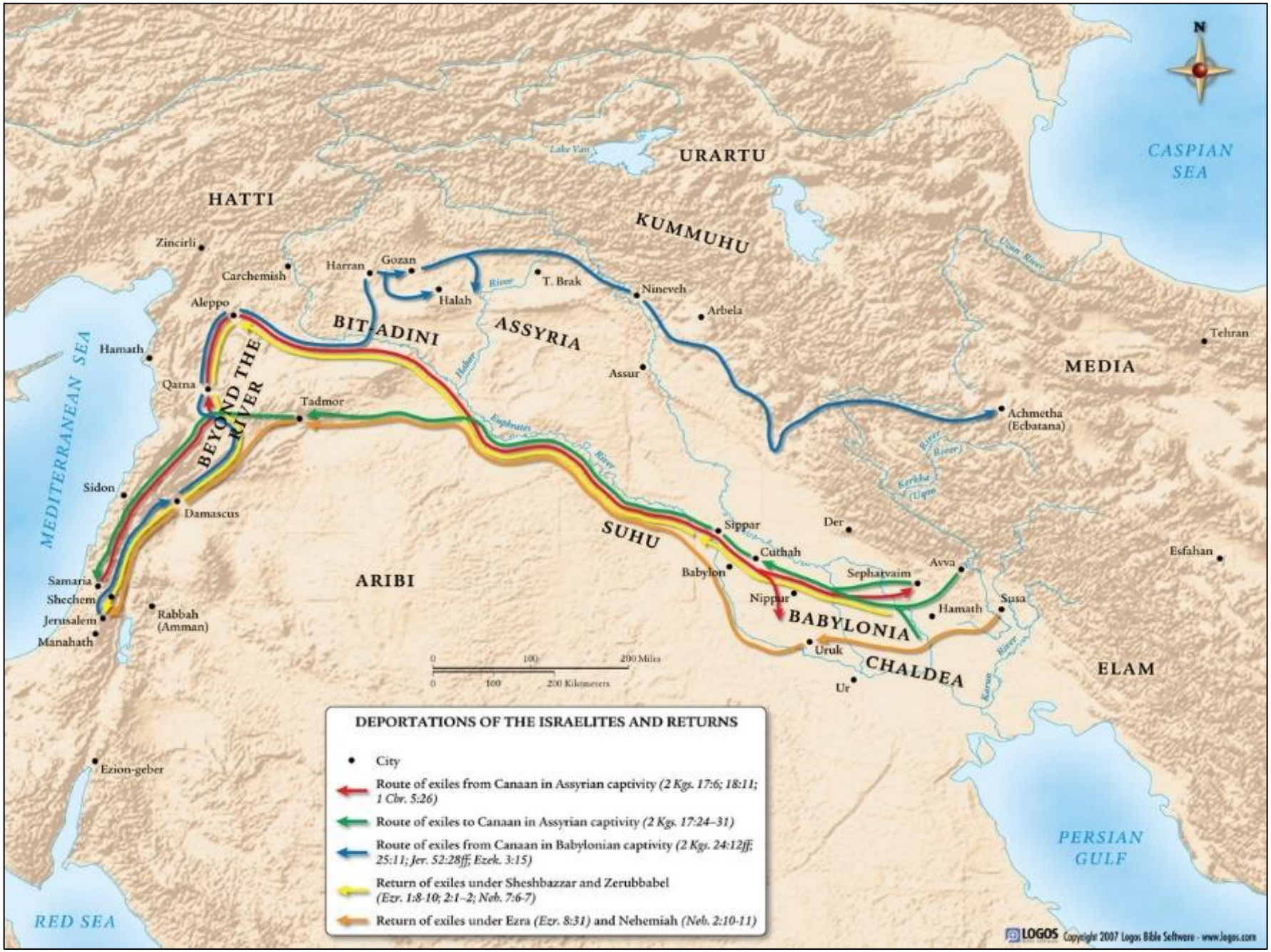
1. There will be a new temple built (chapters 40-44)
2. There will be priests, Levites, offerings and feasts in the worship there (chapters 45+46)
3. The land of Israel will be divided among the 12 tribes (chapters 47+48)



Who is the Prince?

Messiah (Christ) is called 'Shepherd', 'Prince' and 'My Servant David' (34v23+24).

But this is another prince....a Jewish prince living when Christ comes back to earth. He will rule under Christ. He will own land in Israel (45v7). He will go to worship at the temple and offer sacrifices (46v1-18).


N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Lake Van
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Euphrates
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Esfahan
Sephatvaim
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
BABYLONIA
Uruk
CHALDEA
ELAM
Ur
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
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Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

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