

SIGNS TO THE EXILES

24

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↺ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic											
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48									
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel		Restoration of Israel in the Future									
- Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		- A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		- Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		- Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God									
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC			
The City Destroyed						The City Restored									
7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT						15 Years Prophesying HOPE									
Author: Ezekiel ("God strengthens")												Place: Babylonia		Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)	
Events:															
605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken)														Ezekiel 17 years old	
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken)														Ezekiel 25 years old	
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel														Ezekiel 30 years old	
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed)														Ezekiel 37 years old	

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 24

- **Ezekiel 24 concludes the third series of judgments on Judah (chapters: 4-11; 12-19; 20-24).**
- **Ezekiel 24 climaxes these prophecies with two additional messages that show the inevitability of judgment.**

SIGNS TO THE EXILES (Ezekiel 24:1-27)

- **PARABLE OF THE BOILING POT (Ezekiel 24:1-14)**
- **SIGN: THE DEATH OF EZEKIEL'S WIFE (Ezekiel 24:15-27)**

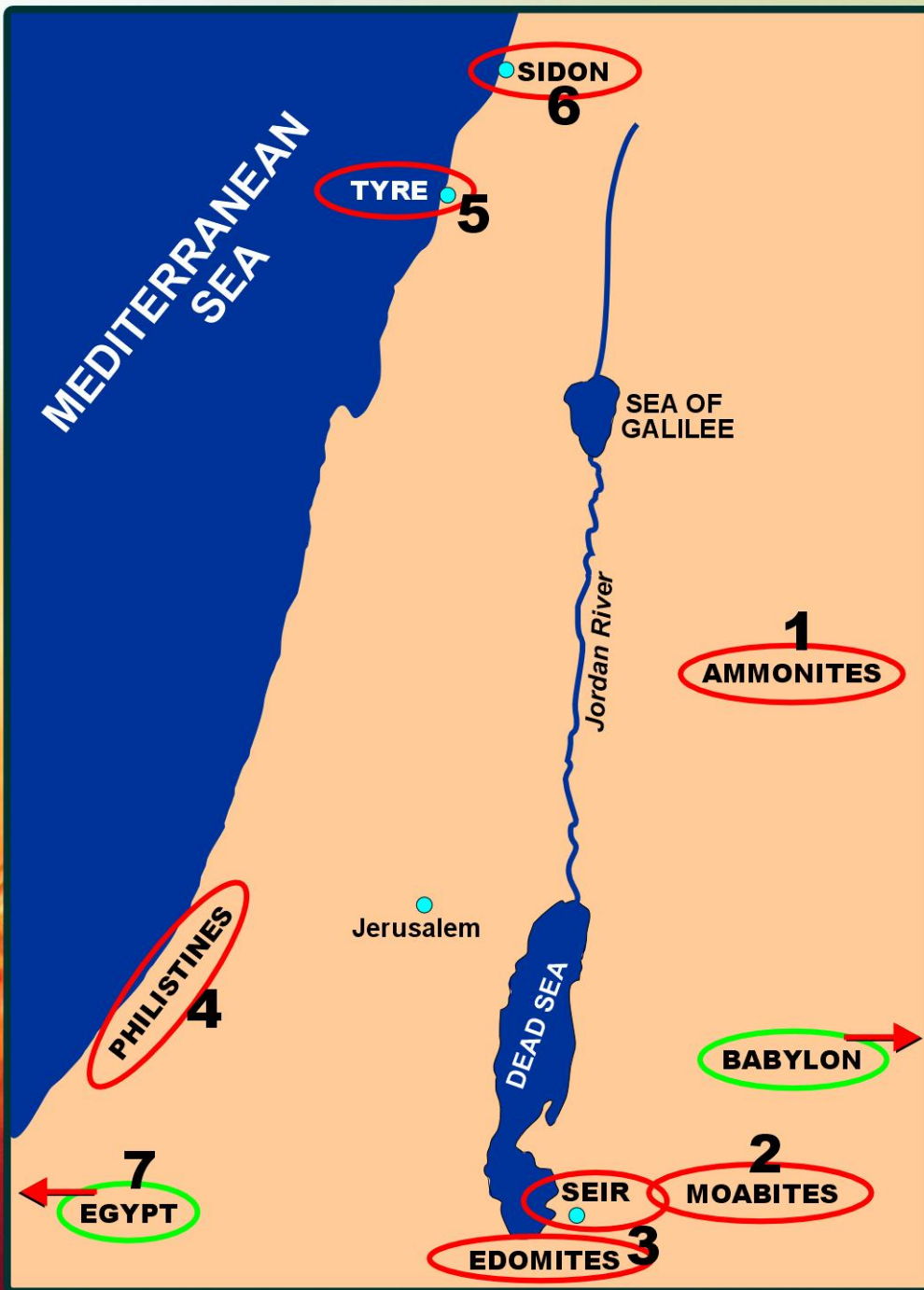


SIGNS TO THE EXILES

Ezekiel 24

Parable Of The Boiling Pot

(Ezekiel 24:1-14)



FALL OF JERUSALEM AND SURROUNDING NATIONS

CHAPTER

24

Fall of Jerusalem PREDICTED

25

1. Ammon (25:1-7)
2. Moab and Seir (25:8-11)
3. Edom (25:12-14)
4. Philistia (25:15-17)

26-28

5. Tyre (26:1—28:19) [Satan]
6. Sidon (28:20-24)

29-32

7. Egypt (29:1—32:32)

33

Fall of Jerusalem ACCOMPLISHED

Jerusalem Struck Down (33:21-33)

EZEKIEL 24-33

**Again, in the ninth year, in the
tenth month, on the tenth day
of the month, the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 24:1



Again, in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.24:1)

- **Ezekiel's final prophecies of doom against Jerusalem came in the ninth year of King Jehoiachin's exile (Ek.1:2).**
- **This was January 15, 588 B.C. — a day of national calamity for Jerusalem.**
- **This is the day the Babylonians began the 18-month siege of Jerusalem.**
- **The Lord instructed Ezekiel to note permanently the day this revelation came to him because it was the very day that Nebuchadnezzar began his siege of Jerusalem.**



**Son of man, write down the
name of the day, this very
day—the king of Babylon
started his siege against
Jerusalem this very day.**

EZEKIEL 24:2



Son of man, write down the name of the day, this very day—the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem this very day. (Ek.24:2)

- **The king of Babylon besieged Jerusalem that very day.**
- **This was the day Ezekiel had been pointing to for over four years.**
- **The date was so significant that it was also mentioned by the writer of 1 and 2 Kings (2Ki.25:1) and by the Prophet Jeremiah (Je.39:1; 52:4).**
- **It was later memorialized as a special day with an annual fast (Zc.8:19).**



And utter a parable to the rebellious house, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Put on a pot, set it on, And also pour water into it.

EZEKIEL 24:3



And utter a parable to the rebellious house, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Put on a pot, set it on, And also pour water into it. (Ek.24:3)

- **Ezekiel told the rebellious house of Israel (Ek.3:9) a parable about a cooking pot being filled with water and choice cuts of meat being boiled.**
- **Ezekiel's ability to announce the beginning of the siege from Babylon validated his ministry as a prophet.**
- **The Jewish exiles were part of the “rebellious house” of Israel.**



**Gather pieces of meat in it,
Every good piece, The thigh
and the shoulder. Fill it with
choice cuts;**

EZEKIEL 24:4



Gather pieces of meat in it, Every good piece, The thigh and the shoulder. Fill it with choice cuts; (Ek.24:4)

- **This was similar to his message in Ezekiel 11:1-25, in which some leaders used the figure of a cooking pot to give Jerusalem false hope.**
- **The people thought that being in the pot (Jerusalem) would keep them safe. In chapter 11 and here Ezekiel prophesied that the pot would be their place of destruction.**



**Take the choice of the flock.
Also pile fuel bones under it,
Make it boil well, And let the
cuts simmer in it.**

EZEKIEL 24:5



**Take the choice of the flock. Also pile fuel bones under it,
Make it boil well, And let the cuts simmer in it. (Ek.24:5)**

- **The people were to put various pieces of choice meat into the pot and were to build a strong fire under it so the water would boil and the meaty bones would cook.**
- **There is no indication that this was another of Ezekiel's acted parables. Rather it seems to have been a message that the prophet spoke without dramatizing it by really boiling meat in a caldron.**
- **The choice cuts of lamb picture God's flock being boiled in a pot, symbolizing Jerusalem in the heat of the siege.**
- **Animal bones were frequently used for fuel.**



**Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
"Woe to the bloody city, To the pot
whose scum is in it, And whose
scum is not gone from it! Bring it
out piece by piece, On which no
lot has fallen.**

EZEKIEL 2:6



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the bloody city, To the pot whose scum is in it, And whose scum is not gone from it! Bring it out piece by piece, On which no lot has fallen. (Ek.24:6)

- Ezekiel explained the parable through two similar statements (Ek.24:6-8, Ek.24:9-14), each beginning with the words, "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the bloody city.""**
- People in Jerusalem who had felt secure from Babylon's onslaught would be dragged from the city into exile with no regard for their position in society ("no lot" would be cast for them).**
- Jerusalem's populace was guilty of bloody corruption, which was pictured by the boiled scum or rust in the pot (Ek.22:2).**



**For her blood is in her midst;
She set it on top of a rock; She
did not pour it on the ground,
To cover it with dust.**

EZEKIEL 24:7



For her blood is in her midst; She set it on top of a rock; She did not pour it on the ground, To cover it with dust. (Ek.24:7)

- **These statements spoke of the city's blood-guiltiness (Ek.22:1-16).**
- **Ezekiel said Jerusalem was like a pot covered with dust, whose deposit will not go away.**
- **The Hebrew word for “dust” could be translated as “rust.”**
- **The cause for the dispersion was her bloodshed poured out openly on rocks.**



**That it may raise up fury and
take vengeance, I have set
her blood on top of a rock,
That it may not be covered.**

EZEKIEL 24:8



That it may raise up fury and take vengeance, I have set her blood on top of a rock, That it may not be covered. (Ek.24:8)

- **In the fire of God's judgment Jerusalem's "impurities" floated to the surface.**
- **Her corruption could not be hidden. She was as unappealing as rusty scum floating on the surface of a meal being cooked.**
- **The meal was ruined by the rusty scum, so the contents of the pot were dumped.**



That it may raise up fury and take vengeance, I have set her blood on top of a rock, That it may not be covered. (Ek.24:8)

- **Jerusalem had shed innocent blood and had not even bothered to hide her crimes.**
- **That blood was crying out, figuratively speaking, for vengeance (Ge.4:10; Lv.17:13-14; Jb.16:18).**
- **Because Jerusalem had openly shed the blood of others, God would openly shed her blood on the bare rock.**





Results Of Jerusalem's Present Judgment

(Ezekiel 24:9-13)

**Therefore thus says the Lord
GOD: "Woe to the bloody city!
I too will make the pyre great.**

EZEKIEL 24:9



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the bloody city! I too will make the pyre great. (Ek.24:9)

- **Verses 6-8 gave us the REASONS for Jerusalem's judgment, verses 9-13 give us the RESULTS of the judgment.**
- **This second oracle stresses not the boiling of meat in the pot but the cleansing of the pot by superheating, a second stage in God's judgment process.**
- **God wanted Ezekiel to picture the fire as furious judgment that kills the people.**



**Heap on the wood, Kindle the
fire; Cook the meat well, Mix
in the spices, And let the cuts
be burned up.**

EZEKIEL 24:10



Heap on the wood, Kindle the fire; Cook the meat well, Mix in the spices, And let the cuts be burned up. (Ek.24:10)

- **Ezekiel's second statement of judgment dealt specifically with the rusty pot.**
- **The meat in the pot was to be cooked "well done," picturing the slaughter of the Jerusalemites by Babylon.**
- **God's judgment would go beyond the inhabitants to encompass the city of Jerusalem itself.**



**Then set the pot empty on the coals,
That it may become hot and its
bronze may burn, That its filthiness
may be melted in it, That its scum
may be consumed.**

EZEKIEL 24:11



**Then set the pot empty on the coals, That it may become hot and its bronze may burn,
That its filthiness may be melted in it, That its scum may be consumed. (Ek.24:11)**

- **The empty pot (Jerusalem without its inhabitants) was to be set on the coals.**
- **The impurities were melted and burned away.**
- **The city itself had to be destroyed to remove its impurities.**
- **After all pieces (people) were burned up, then the pot was heated empty.**



**She has grown weary with
lies, And her great scum
has not gone from her. Let
her scum be in the fire!**

EZEKIEL 24:12



She has grown weary with lies, And her great scum has not gone from her. Let her scum be in the fire! (Ek.24:12)

- **Jerusalem had wearied Yahweh as He toiled to scour its sin away in the past.**
- **The city would remain under judgment because its rust-like sin needed purging away (Ek.36:22-32).**



In your filthiness is lewdness. Because I have cleansed you, and you were not cleansed, You will not be cleansed of your filthiness anymore, Till I have caused My fury to rest upon you.

EZEKIEL 24:13



In your filthiness is lewdness. Because I have cleansed you, and you were not cleansed, You will not be cleansed of your filthiness anymore, ill I have caused My fury to rest upon you. (Ek.24:13)

- **God had tried to cleanse His people from their impurities but they resisted all such efforts.**
- **They would experience the purifying work of God's wrath.**



**I, the LORD, have spoken it; It shall
come to pass, and I will do it; I will
not hold back, Nor will I spare, Nor
will I relent; According to your ways
And according to your deeds They
will judge you," Says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 24:14



I, the LORD, have spoken it; It shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not hold back, Nor will I spare, Nor will I relent; According to your ways And according to your deeds They will judge you," Says the Lord GOD. (Ek.24:14)

- **God's patience had run out; the time had come for Him to judge.**
- **God would not hold back or have pity.**
- **God's mercy prompts Him to withhold judgment as long as possible to enable people to repent (2Pe.3:8-10).**
- **God does not wait indefinitely. A time comes when He punishes wickedness.**





Sign: The Death Of Ezekiel's Wife

Ezekiel 24:15-27

**Also the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 24:15



Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.24:15)

- **God explained the sign to Ezekiel, possibly in a dream at night (Ek.24:18).**
- **The Lord told Ezekiel that He was about to take the life of his beloved wife.**



**Son of man, behold, I take away
from you the desire of your eyes
with one stroke; yet you shall
neither mourn nor weep, nor
shall your tears run down.**

EZEKIEL 24:16



Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. (Ek.24:16)

- Ezekiel acted out through his own heartbreaking experience the inner pain about to be felt by all those Israelites already in captivity.**
- The tragedy of the death of Ezekiel's wife (the delight of his eyes; Ek.24:21) would normally produce an outpouring of grief and sadness.**
- God told him not to lament or weep or shed any tears.**



Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. (Ek.24:16)

- **The English phrase "with one stroke" implies a sudden, unexpected death.**
- **Such an announcement raises the question of whether God commits unprovoked acts of cruelty just to illustrate a point.**
- **She could have been ill for some time before she died.**
- **Ezekiel's wife died as a sign to Israel.**



**Sigh in silence, make no mourning
for the dead; bind your turban on
your head, and put your sandals
on your feet; do not cover your lips,
and do not eat man's bread of
sorrow.**

EZEKIEL 24:17



Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips, and do not eat man's bread of sorrow. (Ek.24:17)

- **Ezeiel was to groan quietly and not mourn for the dead.**
- **Ezekiel had to keep his personal feelings of loss bottled up inside.**
- **He was not allowed to follow normal mourning procedures (Je.16:5-7).**



So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died; and the next morning I did as I was commanded.

EZEKIEL 24:18



So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died; and the next morning I did as I was commanded. (Ek.24:18)

- **Next morning Ezekiel told the people about his vision, and that evening his wife died.**
- **The next morning, when his wife would have been buried, he followed God's instructions and did not mourn openly.**
- **The prophet faithfully did as the Lord had commanded him.**



And the people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things signify to us, that you behave so?"

EZEKIEL 24:19



And the people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things signify to us, that you behave so?" (Ek.24:19)

- **Because the event had been explained to the people in advance, they realized that the action had some national significance.**
- **They asked him to explain what it meant.**
- **Ezekiel's actions bewildered the exiles who asked him to explain why he was behaving so abnormally.**
- **Just as Ezekiel was not to mourn the death of his wife (Ek.24:17), so Israel was not to mourn the death of her families.**



**Then I answered them,
"The word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 24:20



Then I answered them, "The word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.24:20)

- **The prophet replied that the Lord had said that He was about to destroy the temple and to slay the relatives of the exiles who remained in Jerusalem.**
- **The Jews loved the temple almost as much as Ezekiel loved his wife.**
- **His actions bewildered the exiles who asked him to explain why he was behaving so abnormally.**



Speak to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I will profane My sanctuary, your arrogant boast, the desire of your eyes, the delight of your soul; and your sons and daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword.

EZEKIEL 24:21



Speak to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I will profane My sanctuary, your arrogant boast, the desire of your eyes, the delight of your soul; and your sons and daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword. (Ek.24:21)

- **Ezekiel explained that the death of his wife symbolized the destruction of God's temple and the slaughter of the people of Jerusalem**
- **Ezekiel had lost the "delight" of his "eyes" (Ek.24:16) and the exiles would lose Jerusalem, the delight of their eyes (Ek.24:25) to Babylon.**
- **Just as Ezekiel had experienced a great personal tragedy, so those already in captivity would feel the tragedy when they heard about Jerusalem's fall and the massacre of their loved ones (sons and daughters) there.**



**And you shall do as I have
done; you shall not cover
your lips nor eat man's
bread of sorrow.**

EZEKIEL 24:22



And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your lips nor eat man's bread of sorrow. (Ek.24:22)

- **The Jews in captivity would be devastated by the news of Jerusalem's fall, and the magnitude of destruction would render all grief inadequate.**
- **Normally when a personal tragedy occurs, friends and relatives gather to share in the grief of the one affected and to support him in his time of anguish and loss.**
- **When Jerusalem fell everyone was in anguish because everyone was affected.**



**Your turbans shall be on your heads
and your sandals on your feet; you
shall neither mourn nor weep, but
you shall pine away in your iniquities
and mourn with one another.**

EZEKIEL 24:23



Your turbans shall be on your heads and your sandals on your feet; you shall neither mourn nor weep, but you shall pine away in your iniquities and mourn with one another. (Ek.24:23)

- **The tragedy would be so awesome that any public expression of grief would seem insignificant.**
- **They would simply waste away because of their sins while groaning among themselves.**



**Thus Ezekiel is a sign to you;
according to all that he has done
you shall do; and when this
comes, you shall know that I am
the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 24:24



Thus Ezekiel is a sign to you; according to all that he has done you shall do; and when this comes, you shall know that I am the Lord GOD. (Ek.24:24)

- **The Jews already in Babylon were to avoid all public display of grief just as Ezekiel had done.**
- **The catastrophe would send all the exiles into a state of shock and would force them to acknowledge their Lord.**



**And you, son of man—will it not be in
the day when I take from them their
stronghold, their joy and their glory,
the desire of their eyes, and that on
which they set their minds, their sons
and their daughters:**

EZEKIEL 24:25



And you, son of man—will it not be in the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that on which they set their minds, their sons and their daughters: (Ek.24:25)

- **Evidently Ezekiel was not to deliver any more prophetic messages to his fellow exiles after he made the explanation in Ezekiel 24:20-24 until he received word of the destruction of the temple and the capture of the remaining Judahites.**
- **“In the day” refers to the destruction of the temple.**



**on that day one who escapes
will come to you to let you
hear it with your ears;**

EZEKIEL 24:26



**on that day one who escapes will come to you
to let you hear it with your ears; (Ek.24:26)**

- **This message reached him five months later (Ek.33:21).**
- **His enforced dumbness must have been limited to prophecies concerning Israel.**
- **Ezekiel 25:1—33:20 contains messages against foreign nations some of which are dated during the siege of Jerusalem.**



**on that day one who escapes will come to you
to let you hear it with your ears; (Ek.24:26)**

- **A person who escaped the destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.) would come to Ezekiel in Babylon and report the story.**
- **This amounted to about a two-year period (Ek.33:21; Je.52:5-7), when there was no need to preach judgment because it had come.**
- **He did speak of other nations (beginning in chapter 25).**



**on that day your mouth will be
opened to him who has escaped;
you shall speak and no longer be
mute. Thus you will be a sign to
them, and they shall know that I
am the LORD.**

EZEKIEL 24:27



on that day your mouth will be opened to him who has escaped; you shall speak and no longer be mute. Thus you will be a sign to them, and they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.24:27)

- **When the news of Jerusalem's fall reached the exiles, the prophet's mouth would be opened.**
- **Ezekiel would no longer be silent.**
- **Ezekiel had been commanded to remain silent before his fellow exiles except to pronounce the prophecies God gave him.**
- **His part-time dumbness would end when the prophecies he had delivered were confirmed (Ek.33:21-22).**



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EZEKIEL