



A DISOBEDIENT NATION

EZEKIEL 4-7

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL



Ezekiel 6

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic									
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48							
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - 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		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Babylonia (26) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - 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 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT								The City Restored 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							

A DISOBEDIENT NATION — EKEKIEL 4-7

4 SIGNS of Coming Judgment (4-5)

1. Sign of the Brick (4:1-3)



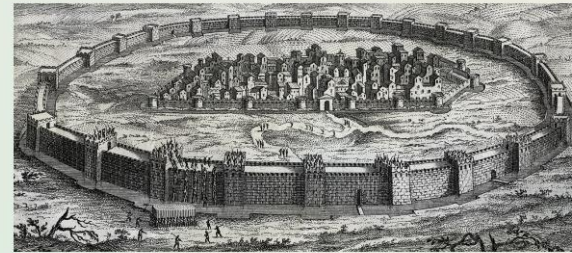
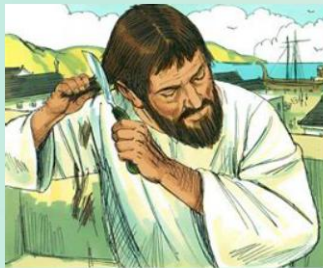
2. Sign of Ezekiel's Lying on his sides (4:4-8)



3. Sign of the Unclean Food (4:9-17)



4. Sign of the Shaved Head and Divided Hair (5:1-17)



2 MESSAGES of Coming Judgment (6-7)

1. Message of Idolatry as the Cause of Judgment (6:1-14)

2. Message on the Nature of Judgment (7:1-27)



A DISOBEDIENT NATION — EKEKIEL 5

- **Hair represents the people of Jerusalem.**

SIGN SUMMARY

- **One third BURNED and die in the city (2Ki.25:9)**
- **One third CUT with sword and die outside the city (2Ki.25:18-21; 2Ch.36:17)**
- **One third SCATTERED in the wind and go into captivity (2Ki.25:11;,21)**
- **Few hairs tied to Ezekiel's robe (Ek.5:3) [a small remnant]**
- **Few hairs put in fire (CALAMITY) and spread to all Israel (Ek.5:4)**

IDOLATRY: THE CAUSE OF JUDGMENT

EZEKIEL 6:1-14

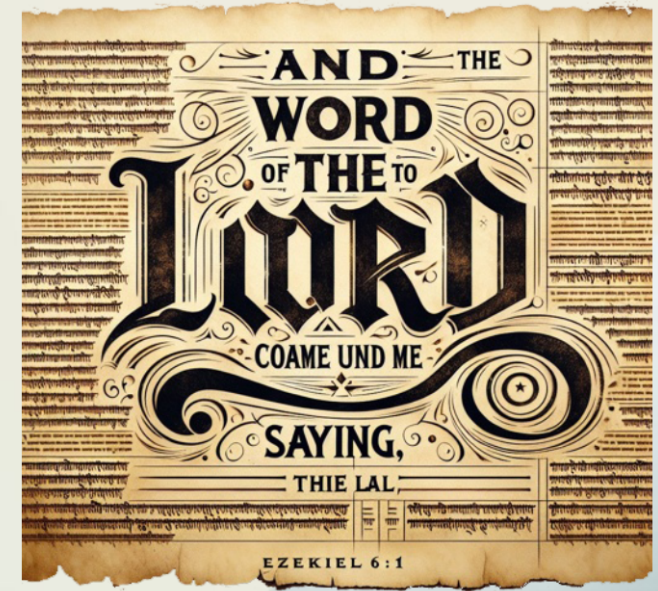
**Now the word of the
LORD came to me,
saying:**

EZEKIEL 6:1



Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (Ek.6:1)

- Remember that Ezekiel could speak only when giving messages from God.
- After giving his four dramatic signs, Ezekiel delivered two messages of coming judgment.
- 2 Messages of Coming Judgment (6-7)
 1. Message of Idolatry as the Cause of Judgment (6:1-14)
 2. Message on the Nature of Judgment (7:1-27)
- God was the source of the words Ezekiel delivered. Ezekiel is simply a mouthpiece for God.



**"Son of man, set your face
toward the mountains of Israel,
and prophesy against them,**

EZEKIEL 6:2



"Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, (Ek.6:2)

- **The phrase “set your face toward” means to turn one’s face toward an object with hostile intentions.**
- **Here the intended target was the “mountains of Israel.”**
- **The mountains are personified and commanded to hear the word of the Lord through Ezekiel.**
- **The mountains of Israel, which run the entire length of the country from north to south, represent the whole land of Israel, especially Jerusalem.**



**and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear
the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says
the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the
hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys:
"Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword
against you, and I will destroy your
high places.**

EZEKIEL 6:3



and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: "Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. (Ek.6:3)

- The significance of the “ravines” and “valleys” must be understood in light of the Canaanite religious practices that permeated Israel (Je.2:20-28; 17:1-3; 32:35).**
- Israel was supposed to worship only the God of heaven in His temple in Jerusalem, but she set up shrines to false gods throughout the land (2Ki.21:2-6, 10-15).**
- By addressing his message to the land itself, Ezekiel was focusing on the people’s immoral use of the land.**



and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: "Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. (Ek.6:3)

- **A “high place” was usually a place of worship located on a hill or mountain.**
- **The elevated site supposedly brought worshipers closer to their gods.**
- **Most high places had only altars for offering sacrifices.**
- **High places were in Canaan before Israel arrived, and God commanded Israel to destroy them (Nu.33:52).**



and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: "Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. (Ek.6:3)

BEFORE SOLOMON'S TEMPLE WAS BUILT

- **Israel was to worship only at the tabernacle, placed at Shiloh (Du.12:2-14; 1Sm.1:3).**
- **After the destruction of Shiloh (probably by the Philistines) and before the construction of the temple in Jerusalem, Israel had no central place of worship.**
- **During this time God permitted the use of high places as temporary worship centers (1Ki.3:2).**
- **Both Samuel (1Sm.9:12-14) and Solomon (1Ki.3:3) worshiped the Lord at high places.**



**Then your altars shall be desolate,
your incense altars shall be broken,
and I will cast down your slain
men before your idols.**

EZEKIEL 6:4



**Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken,
and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. (Ek.6:4)**

- **God would destroy the altars, and the people who worshipped before them would fall slain around them.**
- **The idols would not be able to defend their worshipers.**
- **It is God Himself who acts through the human instrumentality of Babylon.**



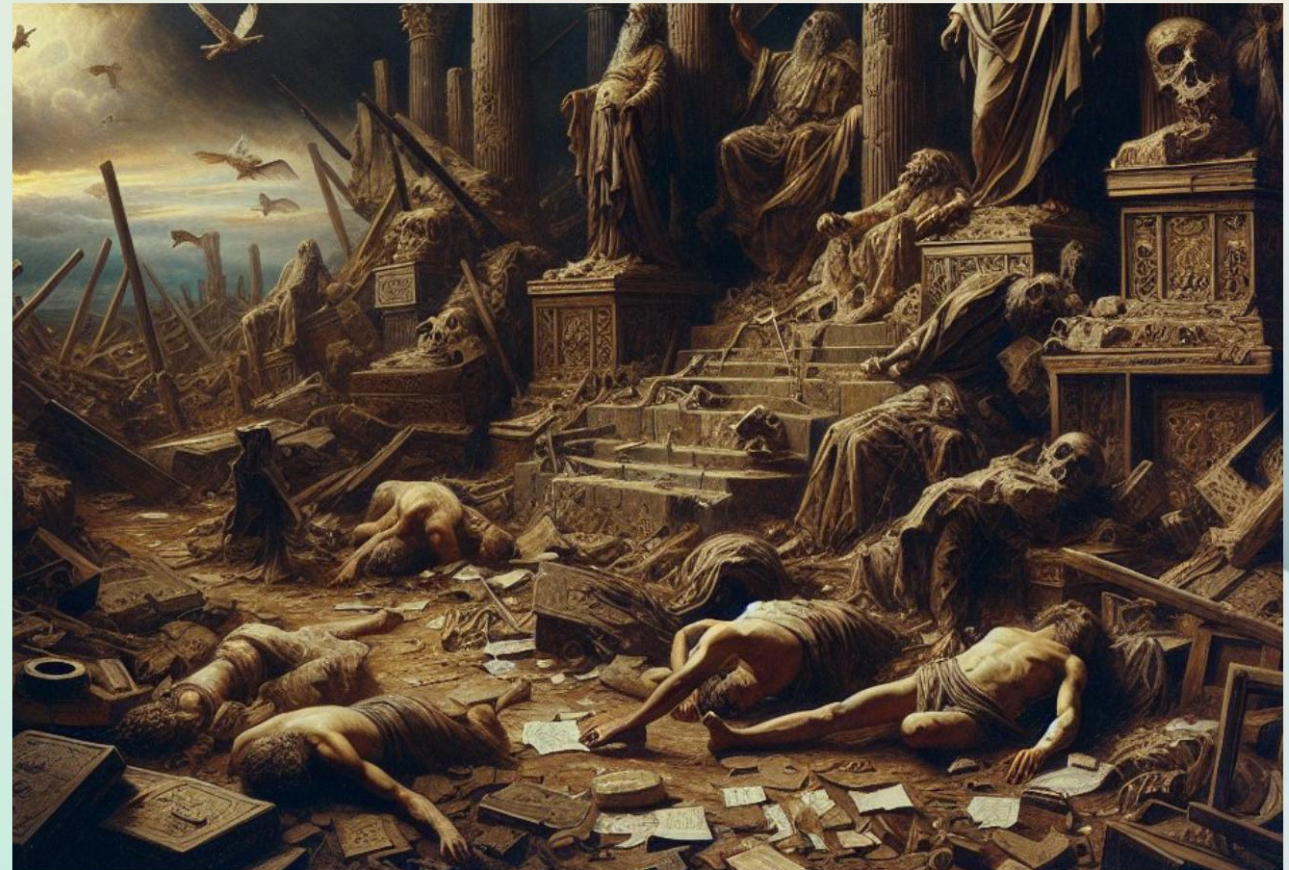
**And I will lay the corpses of the
children of Israel before their
idols, and I will scatter your
bones all around your altars.**

EZEKIEL 6:5



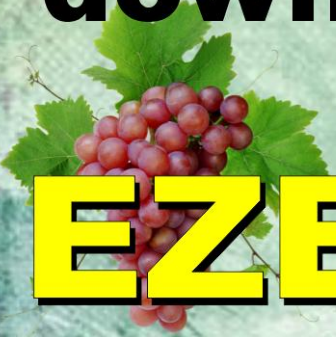
**And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols,
and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. (Ek.6:5)**

- **The Lord would defile these altars with the bones of the Israelites who died before them.**
- **Scattered animal bones often marked these places of sacrifice, but human bones would pollute them in the future.**



In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

EZEKIEL 6:6



In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. (Ek.6:6)

- **By Ezekiel's time the high places were again flourishing in Judah.**
- **They included altars for SACRIFICING animals to false gods, INCENSE altars for offering incense to the gods, and IDOLS which were physical representations of the gods (Ek.6:4).**
- **God vowed to intervene so that the high places, altars, idols, and incense would all be wiped out.**



**The slain shall fall in your
midst, and you shall know
that I am the LORD.**

EZEKIEL 6:7



The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.6:7)

- **The people would know, God said, that I am the Lord. This phrase occurs 63 times in Ezekiel using Yahweh, God's covenant name.**
- **Many people would die, and God's people would know that He had judged them.**
- **“I am the LORD (YHWH)” is the covenant name for Israel's relationship with God. Now they will know Him in covenant justice.**
- **“You shall know” shows that the essential reason for judgment is the violation of the character of God.**



**"Yet I will leave a remnant, so that
you may have some who escape
the sword among the nations,
when you are scattered through
the countries.**

EZEKIEL 6:8



"Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries. (Ek.6:8)

- In the midst of God's judgment came a promise of mercy. God vowed to spare some (Ek.5:3-5; 12:16).**
- Not all Israelites would be destroyed, for some would escape the sword when Israel would be dispersed among the nations.**
- The impending defeat of Judah by Babylon did not signal the end of God's covenant promise to Israel. God was not turning away from His promises.**



**Then those of you who escape will remember
Me among the nations where they are carried
captive, because I was crushed by their
adulterous heart which has departed from
Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot
after their idols; they will loathe themselves
for the evils which they committed in all
their abominations.**

EZEKIEL 6:9



Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. (Ek.6:9)

- **Though the Lord would bring this judgment and scatter His people, He would leave a remnant alive (Is.1:9; 10:20; Je.43:5; Zp.2:7; 3:13; Zc.10:9; Ro.9:6-13; 11:5).**
- **The Hebrew word translated “idols,” literally means “dung-gods.” It is used 38 times in Ezekiel.**
- **Modern idolatry, like the ancient Israelite, Near Eastern kind, is essentially materialistic (1Jn.2:15-17; 5:21).**
- **Instead of full reliance on God, while we may not deny His existence, we don't trust Him to take care of us materially.**



**And they shall know that I am
the LORD; I have not said in
vain that I would bring this
calamity upon them."**

EZEKIEL 6:10



And they shall know that I am the LORD; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them." (Ek.6:10)

- God did not bring captivity on Israel in vain. It will accomplish what God intended it to do. No more idolatry after the Babylon captivity.**
- Sin is a personal violation of the grace of God! Biblical faith is a love relationship.**
- God sometimes has to break a person in order to bring him or her to true repentance.**
- There never has been, nor ever will be, a complete end to Israel.**



'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.

EZEKIEL 6:11



'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. (Ek.6:11)

- **Striking hands together, clapping, can be a sign of 'rejoicing' (2Ki.11:12; Ps.98:8), but here it likely means 'derision' (Ek.25:6).**
- **Ezekiel was to demonstrate this mocking behavior because of all the wicked and detestable practices of the house of Israel.**
- **Sword meant death in battle; famine came when enemies besieged a city; disease was always a danger during famine.**



**He who is far off shall die by the
pestilence, he who is near shall fall
by the sword, and he who remains
and is besieged shall die by the
famine. Thus will I spend My fury
upon them.**

EZEKIEL 6:12



He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them. (Ek.6:12)

- **Those in Jerusalem who escaped one calamity would only find another waiting to strike them down.**
- **Pestilence, sword, and famine would affect many people and will touch all.**

FAR OFF - Die by Pestilence

NEAR - Die by Sword (outside the city)

REMAINS - Die by Famine (in the city)



**Then you shall know that I am the
LORD, when their slain are among their
idols all around their altars, on every
high hill, on all the mountaintops, under
every green tree, and under every thick
oak, wherever they offered sweet
incense to all their idols.**

EZEKIEL 6:13



Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols. (Ek.6:13)

- **The “oak” (’ēlâh) was the terebinth tree. It is a common tree in Canaan.**
- **The Elah Valley, where David slew Goliath, probably received its name because of the abundance of these trees (1Sm.17:2, 19).**
- **God had given Israel a land luxurious with “spreading” trees and “leafy” oaks, but the people corrupted His gift, using these displays of His bounty as places to offer fragrant incense to all their idols.**



Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols. (Ek.6:13)

- People take the blessings of God and pervert them for their own use.**
- People receive the blessings of God and place their confidence on those things and not on God who gave them.**
- The Lord wants us to know Him personally, and that He is our provider. Israel was the learn that covenant relationship can lead to covenant justice.**



So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 6:14



So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.6:14)

- **God would reduce their rich land to rubble — a desolate waste from the desert to Diblah.**
- **This is the third time in this chapter Ezekiel stated the result of the judgment would come to know that He is the Lord (v.7,10,14). They would acknowledge His supreme authority.**
- **God would make the land of Judah more desolate than the wilderness near Diblah.**
- **Diblathaim was a city on the eastern edge of Moab (Nu.33:46; Je.48:22), near the desert, east and south of the Dead Sea.**



So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.6:14)

- **The purpose of God's judgment was to restore the people to their proper relationship with Him.**
- **In every generation God's judgment and discipline is misunderstood by most people.**
- **God's chief desire is to bring people to himself, or back to himself.**
- **The purpose of all God's punishment was not to take revenge but to impress upon the people the truth that the Lord is the only true and living God.**



THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL



Ezekiel 6



A DISOBEDIENT NATION

EZEKIEL 4-7