

Ezekiel Part 2

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

WHEN MY SANCTUARY
IS IN THEIR
MIDST FOREVER
(CHAPTERS 33–48)

Ezekiel Part 2 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2012, 2013, 2018 Precept Ministries International
Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®
© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.
Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)
© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3rd Edition (12/2018)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	L E S S O N S	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: Ezekiel 33–34	5
9	LESSON TWO: Ezekiel 35–36	13
17	LESSON THREE: Ezekiel 37	21
27	LESSON FOUR: Ezekiel 38–39	31
35	LESSON FIVE: Ezekiel 40–43	39
43	LESSON SIX: Ezekiel 44–46	47
53	LESSON SEVEN: Ezekiel 47–48	57

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on the  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

EZEKIEL PART 2 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 33–34

EZEKIEL SETTING

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they learned from their study on Day One about the setting for Ezekiel in chapters 1–3. Tell them to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Ezekiel” as a visual aid.

Ezekiel begins in the 5th year of King Jehoiachin’s exile.
Jehoiachin was king of Judah when taken by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

Ezekiel was among the exiles taken in 597 B.C. from Jerusalem to Babylon.

God

sent Ezekiel with His word to the rebellious house of Israel in exile.

told Ezekiel they were stubborn and obstinate people who would not listen to / hear Ezekiel’s words from the Lord to them.

appointed Ezekiel as a watchman to warn them to turn from wickedness to righteousness.

Using the At a Glance chart as a visual aid, you can ask what Ezekiel 4–32 is about.

God sent signs by Ezekiel for the people to see what would happen in Jerusalem.
The siege and destruction of the city

Ezekiel had visions of the abominations in the temple in Jerusalem and God’s glory leaving the temple and the city.

God sent signs of another exile yet to come for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
Then He gave messages of coming judgment on Jerusalem and why—their abominations.

Ezekiel 24 says the siege began in the 9th year of Jehoiachin’s exile.

Ezekiel 25–32 are prophecies against other nations. These prophecies came during the 9th through the 12th years of the exile and the 27th year. Jerusalem fell in the 11th year.

You might use a simple timeline as a visual aid for this discussion. See the last page of this lesson's guide.

EZEKIEL 33

Verses 1-20

What are these verses about?

God restated to Ezekiel his appointment as a watchman.

Verses 1-5 tell what happened when the watchman warned.

If the wicked didn't take the warning and turn from wickedness / iniquity, his blood was on him alone.

If he listened to the warning and turned from wickedness, he would live.

Verse 6 tells what happened if the watchman didn't warn.

The blood of the wicked who was killed was on the watchman's head.

The wicked died in his own iniquity, but the watchman was held accountable for not warning the wicked.

Verses 7-9 are specifically directed to Ezekiel, son of man.

Verse 10 begins God's word through Ezekiel to the people of Israel.

The people were asking how they were to live because of suffering for their transgressions and sins.

Verse 11 makes an important statement about the Lord—He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. His desire is for the wicked to turn and live. That's why He appointed Ezekiel as the watchman to warn the wicked of coming judgment.

In verses 12-20, God's way of dealing with the wicked who turn is explained. There is hope for the wicked who turn from it to practice justice and righteousness. They'll live.

Verse 15 lists some of the righteous and just acts one is to practice.

The contrast is that a righteous man who turns to wickedness will die.

But the people said that His way was not right.

God judges each person according to his ways, what he's done.

How do these verses compare with Ezekiel 3?

God appointed Ezekiel as a watchman when He first sent him to Israel's exiles with His word. Ezekiel 3 and 33 are very similar about the watchman. Ezekiel was to warn the exiles about individual righteousness and wickedness. He offered life for those who turned from wickedness and practiced righteousness.

God's standard of judgment is consistent throughout Ezekiel—each man is judged according to his ways.

How does Acts 20:17-32 relate to Ezekiel being a watchman?

Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he had told both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God. That's similar to Ezekiel calling the wicked to turn from evil.

Verse 26 uses the same terms as found in Ezekiel 3 and 33; he was innocent of the blood of others because he preached God's Word.

After discussing application, lead your discussion back to the text of Ezekiel 33.

Verses 21-22

What is the significance of these verses?

Word came to Ezekiel in exile that Jerusalem had fallen.

It was the 12th year, 10th month, 5th day.

That was 3 years after the siege began, Ezekiel 24:1.

Ezekiel heard about the city from the refugee(s) / fugitive.

Ezekiel was no longer mute. Relate this to Ezekiel 3:26 and 24:25-27.

His prophecies about coming judgment on Jerusalem were finished.

Verses 23-29

Who are these verses about? What did the Lord say about them?

The people of Israel were saying they deserved to possess the land.

They compared themselves to Abraham.

There was only one of him, and he possessed it.

They were many, so they should possess it.

But the Lord said they didn't deserve to possess the land because of their idols, abominations, defilements.

He said it would become a desolation, and then they'd know that He's the Lord.

Verses 30-33

Who are these verses about?

This is about the exiles, the people of Israel who lived in Babylon with Ezekiel.

They liked to come and hear what the Lord said through their prophet Ezekiel, but they didn't do what God said. Instead, they did what they wanted.

When the words Ezekiel spoke came true, then they would know God's prophet had been among them. What He said in chapters 4–24 happened and they should have known that then.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance charts as the theme.

NOTE: If you do this for each chapter, they can fill in the chart even if they didn't do it ahead of time. It's an easy way to help them get comfortable with chapter themes.

Watchman—turn; Jerusalem taken, not possess the land
Ezekiel not mute, people hear but don't do what he says

Give time for your group to discuss application. Are there people today who feel good about hearing God's Word, but then do what they want to do? Do they ignore already fulfilled prophecies?

EZEKIEL 34

Verses 1-10

What did the Lord prophesy against the shepherds?

Woe / Ah
Because they fed themselves instead of the flock
They didn't care for the flock.

Therefore, God was against them.
He would take His sheep from them and deliver / rescue His flock.

You might ask your group who the shepherds were.

They were the leaders of Israel who had not cared for God's people, His flock.

What was the message through God’s prophet Jeremiah who was in Jerusalem during the same time that Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon?

The shepherds were stupid and didn’t inquire of the Lord.
They destroyed and scattered the sheep.
They led the sheep astray and turned them away.

Verses 11-24

Who are these verses about?

God Himself will do what the shepherds, leaders of His people, didn’t do.
He’ll bring them back from where they were scattered to their own land which will no longer be a desolation. The land will produce food to feed them.

God will judge between the fat and the lean of His sheep.

Ezekiel 33:20 says that each will be judged according to his own ways.
It’s the same here in Ezekiel 34. God will not only judge Israel’s leaders or shepherds for their ways, but each of the sheep or people of Israel, as well.

Again God promised to deliver His flock in verse 22, as in verses 10 and 12.
He is still the subject of these verses.

Then—when God delivers, brings back, when His people are no longer a prey

At that time, He’ll set David as a shepherd over them.
As God’s servant, he’ll feed them and be prince among them.

It’s the time when the LORD is Israel’s God. These promises are still future.

How does this compare with Jeremiah 23:1-6?

It’s the days when the righteous Branch of David reigns as king and executes justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in safety.

How does Jeremiah 3:12-18 relate to these promises?

God will give them, Judah and Israel joined as one, shepherds after His heart, who will feed them with knowledge and understanding.

Jerusalem will be called “the Throne of the Lord.” The house of Judah will join the house of Israel.

The nations will be gathered to Jerusalem.

Ask your group what they learned from the New Testament cross-references that relate to this.

Matthew 2:4-6

Jesus is called a Ruler who will shepherd God's people Israel.
He'll rule them when He comes the second time.

John 10

At His first coming, Jesus called Himself the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. Then He spoke of other sheep of a different fold (probably a reference to Gentiles who were to be saved) who become one flock with one shepherd.

The one flock consists of those who believe in Him.

No one is able to snatch them out of His or the Father's hand. They're secure forever.
He gives eternal life to His sheep so that they never perish.
This is about the church of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:31-33

Again Jesus referred to Himself as the shepherd. He said this to His eleven disciples, those who believed in Him, His true sheep at that time.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep.

Lead your discussion back to Ezekiel 34:25-31.
What else happens then?

God

- Makes a covenant of peace with Israel
- Eliminates / banishes harmful beasts from the land
- Sends showers of blessing for fruit and other produce in the land
- Delivers Israel from those who enslaved them
- Establishes a renowned planting place / plantation
- Is their God

Israel

- Live securely, even in the woods and wilderness of their land
- Know God is the Lord
- No longer a prey to the nations
- No one will make them afraid
- Not again victims of famine / hunger in their land
- Not endure insults (ESV—suffer reproach) of the nations anymore
- Know that the Lord their God is with them and that they're His people

You might ask your group why they think verse 31 is there.

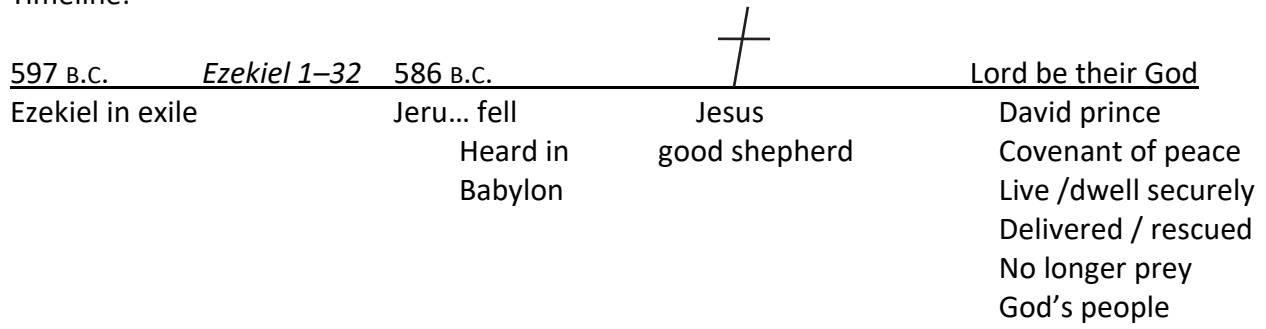
God began speaking about Himself in verse 10.
He told about caring for His sheep and bringing them back after scattering.
Then He said He'll judge them, each one.
His promises of hope, security, and peace are fulfilled by God Himself.
No man can bring these things about, and no man stands against Him, His will.
What He says will happen, will happen.
Israel in exile heard promises of hope when they heard Jerusalem fell.
They're God's sheep and He's their God.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for this chapter.

Prophecy against Israel's shepherds; God will shepherd them

Give time for them to discuss any application not yet mentioned as the end of this discussion.

Timeline:



EZEKIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 35–36
- God’s promises to Israel

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about Ezekiel 1–34. They might use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for what they can’t remember.

Ezekiel begins in the 5th year of King Jehoiachin’s exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Ezekiel 1–23

Visions, signs, and prophecies about the coming siege and destruction of Jerusalem and about God’s glory leaving His temple and city because of Jerusalem’s abominations, the leaders’ and people’s sins; another exile was coming

Ezekiel 24

The siege on Jerusalem began, the parable of the pot

Ezekiel 25–32

Prophecies against other nations; Babylon will take them

These prophecies in chapters 1–32 came from the Lord to Ezekiel from the 5th through the 12th years of his exile. Jerusalem fell in the 11th year.

Ezekiel 33–34

God said again that Ezekiel had been appointed by Him as Israel’s watchman to warn. Again, God said His judgment was according to what each individual had done.

Then word reached Ezekiel in Babylon that Jerusalem had been taken.

A prophecy against the shepherds, probably kings and princes, of Israel

Then a message of hope and restoration

God with His people living securely on their land

These promises are for the future.

The time line from the previous discussion can continue as a visual aid for this discussion.

EZEKIEL 35

What is this chapter about?

This is another word of the Lord which came to Ezekiel.
It begins with a prophecy against Mount Seir, Edom.

God will judge Mount Seir because of everlasting / perpetual enmity against Israel.

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-9

What will happen to Mount Seir?

There is a short list at the end of this guide which you might also use as a visual aid.

God will

make it a desolation and a waste

give it over to bloodshed, fill it with people slain by the sword

A battle is coming.

It will be an everlasting / perpetual desolation without inhabitants.

Verses 10-15

Why will this happen?

Because Edom

said he would possess Israel and Judah's land

hated and envied Israel

reviled the mountains of Israel, said they were given to Edom

spoke arrogantly (ESV—magnified themselves) against God

God Himself is the one who gave Israel its land. Edom arrogantly spoke against Him when they said they would possess it.

How does Ezekiel 35 end?

When God makes Edom a desolation, the rest of the earth will be rejoicing.

God will do to Edom as Edom did to Israel—again His judgment is just, according to the ways of the one(s) judged.

Then they'll know He's the Lord.

At this point in your discussion, you might ask what your group learned about Edom from the cross-references in the lesson.

Ezekiel 25:12-14

Edom goes against Israel, and because of that God will send Israel against Edom. Israel will bring God's anger, wrath, vengeance on Edom.

If this is the same as Obadiah, then it's the time of the end.

Obadiah

This prophecy against Edom is also about what will happen in the future. The nations will go against Edom in a battle. Edom's arrogance / pride is mentioned here also.

Verse 10 says Edom is judged because of violence to his brother Jacob. Jacob and Esau were twins; Esau was also called Edom, and God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

There will be no survivor of Esau's family line. Israel will be the possessors, not Edom.

These prophecies about Edom are unfulfilled now. They're for the future.

What is the theme?

Prophecy against Mt. Seir, Edom—God is against you

EZEKIEL 36

How does this chapter begin? How is it divided?

This seems to be a second part to the word of the Lord beginning in Ezekiel 35. Compare 35:1-2 with 36:1.

Verses 1-15 are prophecy to the mountains of Israel.

Then God speaks about the house of Israel in verses 16-38. This is another word from the Lord to Ezekiel.

How do verses 1-3 relate to Ezekiel 35?

The enemy Edom spoke / said Israel was to be his possession.

Israel had other enemies also, but Mount Seir or Edom is named in these two chapters.

Verses 4-15

What did God say through Ezekiel about the mountains of Israel?

They had become a prey and derision to the nations around them.
This message came after Ezekiel heard about Jerusalem's fall.

Israel had endured the nations' insults, but God said that was going to change and the nations themselves would endure their own insults.

In contrast to the nations, the mountains of Israel would bear fruit for the people to return.

Verse 9 says God is with the mountains of Israel.

Verses 9-15 tell what God will do regarding the mountains of Israel.

He'll

turn to them; they'll be cultivated / tilled and sown
multiply men / people on them; Israel will inhabit and rebuild
treated better than at the first (ESV—do more good to you than ever before)
cause men / people of Israel to possess the inheritance
not let them hear nations' insults / reproach anymore

What will be the result for the people of Israel who return to their land?

Never again bereaved of their children

Verses 16-21

How do these verses begin?

The rest of this chapter is another word which came to Ezekiel from the Lord.
This word is about the people of Israel.

How does this word begin?

Israel defiled their own land with idols and sins.
So God poured out His wrath on them and scattered them among the nations.

He judged them according to their ways. This is a repeated statement in Ezekiel.
When Israel, God's people, is in other lands, His holy name is profaned.

Why are the people of God not living in the land He gave them?
Might it be seen by some as a failing of His?

God is concerned for His holy name.

Verses 22-32

What is God going to do and why?

God will vindicate the holiness of His great name.

He'll prove Himself holy among the people of Israel, and all nations will see it.

He will

gather Israel from the lands and bring them back to their land

cleanse them from their filthiness / uncleanness and idols

give them a new heart and spirit

put His Spirit within them to cause them to obey Him

be their God, and they His people

save / deliver them from uncleanness

multiply / abundant grain, fruit, produce / increase of the field and not bring famine

At this point, you might briefly review the timeline you made for the discussion of Lesson 1. You can either have the timeline from the previous week already written or you can write the main points as you review them. These things are still future; the time of Ezekiel 34:11-31. Add to the timeline as your group discusses the above.

How does this compare with the promises in Ezekiel 11 and 34 and Jeremiah 31:31-34?

The same promises

Jeremiah says this is part of the new covenant God will make with Israel and Judah.

What does Romans 11 say about that time and the present?

The covenant when God takes away Israel's sins is when they are all saved.

It's when the Deliverer comes and removes their ungodliness.

It's the second coming of Jesus.

NOTE: If some in your group have questions about "all Israel" being saved, you can remind them Ezekiel 34:15-24 says God will judge His sheep (Israel) before the time when He sets David over them and God is their God. You can also refer to Ezekiel 20:33-44.

Now there is a partial hardening of Israel.

But that's only until the fullness of the Gentiles has come into salvation.

Add Jesus' second coming to the timeline.

When that happens, what will the people of Israel do, according to Ezekiel 36:31-32?

They'll remember their evil ways and deeds and loathe themselves for their abominations. God called them to be ashamed and confounded for their ways.

Verses 33-38

What else will God cause to happen?

Cities inhabited and fortified
Waste places rebuilt
Desolate land cultivated / tilled like the garden of Eden
Increase men / people in Israel like a flock

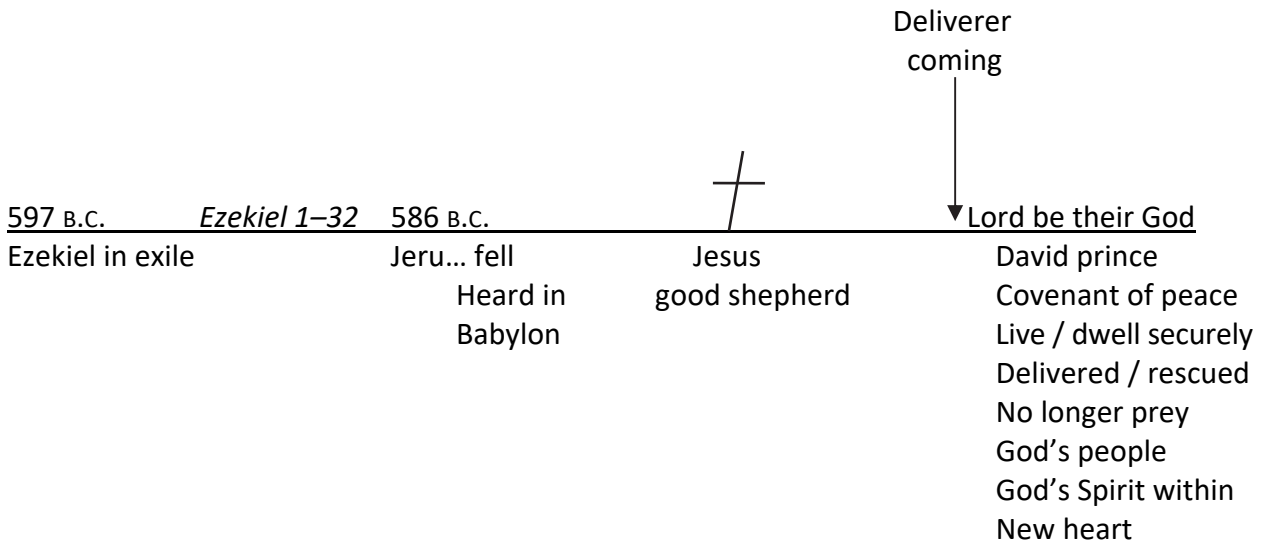
Verse 36 says the nations will know that the Lord is the one who does this.
And Israel will know that He's the Lord.

Ask your group what they noted as the theme on their At a Glance chart.

To Israel's mountains and people—you will know I am the Lord

To end this discussion, you might ask your group what they think about these promises and Israel's future. Is God finished with Israel?

Mount Seir	Mountains of Israel
God against make desolation and waste everlasting / perpetual enmity spoke against mountains of Israel God	Bear fruit for people Cultivated / tilled and sown Not hear insults / reproach from nations anymore Not bereave of children



EZEKIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 37
- God's Spirit and Israel's future

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about Ezekiel 1–32. They might use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for what they can't remember.

Ezekiel 1–24

Visions, signs, and prophecies about the coming siege and destruction of Jerusalem

Ezekiel 25–32

Prophecies against other nations; Babylon will take them

These prophecies in chapters 1–32 came from the Lord to Ezekiel from the 5th through the 12th years of the exile.

Now ask about Ezekiel 33–36. What's the difference in the messages or prophecies?

Ezekiel 33

God said again that Ezekiel had been appointed by Him as Israel's watchman to warn. Then word reached Ezekiel in Babylon that Jerusalem had been taken.

Ezekiel 34–36

Prophecy against the shepherds, probably kings and princes, of Israel

Prophecy against Mount Seir

Prophecies about Israel's future: God with His people living securely on their land

The second part of Ezekiel is filled with hope for the exiles who had lost their city and temple.

At this point, you might ask what they remember from the promises in Ezekiel 34 and 36 which would have given hope to those who heard.

You can use the same timeline as for Lessons 1 and 2, adding a few main points from this chapter.

Briefly review the main points of prophecies for Israel which are not yet fulfilled:

34:11-31

God will care for His sheep—the house of Israel
gather them back to their land
set one shepherd over them, His servant David
be their God

A covenant of peace

Israel live securely on their own land, no longer a prey to the nations

36:8-38

God will make the land fruitful
bring the people back
cleanse them and give a new heart and His Spirit
Israel will no longer profane His name, but walk in His statutes and ordinances / rules
The cities will be rebuilt, and men / people will multiply

Ezekiel 37

What is this chapter about? Ask your group what they noted as the theme.

It's another prophecy about Israel:
dry bones in graves coming alive by God's Word and His Spirit.

Theme something like: Dry bones live; 2 sticks gathered

How does this relate to Ezekiel 36?

It gives more details about Israel coming alive by God's Spirit and being back in their land.

You can discuss this chapter paragraph by paragraph, using as a guide the themes your group recorded on Day One.

Verses 1-6

What are these verses about?

God's Spirit set Ezekiel in a valley of dry bones.
He asked Ezekiel if the bones can live.
Then He told Ezekiel to prophesy His word over the bones.

Verses 5-6 are what the Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy.

This is another list of what God will do. Similar lists are in Ezekiel 34 and 36.

He will:

Cause breath to enter them so that they live
Put sinews on them
Make flesh grow back on them
Cover them with skin
Put breath in them so that they come to life

Then verse 6 repeats the key statement in Ezekiel.
When He gives life to Israel, they'll know that He's the Lord.

Verses 7-10

What happens in these verses?

Ezekiel prophesied what the Lord told him to.
As he did, he heard a noise / sound and a rattling as the bones came together bone to bone.

Sinews, then flesh grew and skin covered them—but no breath

Then Ezekiel was told to prophesy again, this time to the breath.
He prophesied to the breath to come from the four winds and breathe on the slain so that they come to life.

At this point, you can ask your group what they learned from the definition of Spirit and breath.
Give time for them to discuss.

These two English words are the same Hebrew word.
Spirit in verses 1 and 14 is the same word as *breath* in verses 5-10.

What happened to Israel as a result of God's Spirit, breath?

The dead came to life.
Verse 10 says they were an exceedingly great army.

How does this compare with the prophecy about Israel and God's Spirit in Ezekiel 36:27?

He will put His Spirit within them to cause them to walk in His statutes and ordinances / rules.

This is still future.
Israel has not yet become an exceedingly great army that does God's will.

Verses 11-14

How does this part of the chapter end?

This gives the interpretation of the bones.

The bones represent the whole house of Israel, not just Judah—the southern kingdom taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar.

They said their bones were dried up, their hope had perished, and they were cut off.

At this point, you might ask your group what they remember of the setting for Ezekiel at this time.

Israel was in exile in Babylon.
The temple had been destroyed along with the city of Jerusalem.
Their hope was gone.

What would these prophecies in Ezekiel 34–37 have given them if they'd listened to Ezekiel?

Hope

Give your group time to discuss any application they might see here.

According to verse 12, what did the Lord tell Ezekiel to prophesy next and to whom?

Prophesy to the bones: I will
Open your graves and cause you to come out / raise you
Bring you into the land of Israel
Put My Spirit within you—life
Place you on your own land

What's the result to be?

Then they, His people, will know the Lord Himself spoke it and did it.
His Spirit gives life to the dead.

This is a good place in your discussion to ask what your group learned from the cross-references in the lesson about the Holy Spirit. Give time for application discussion, too.

John 3

Jesus said this to Nicodemus, the teacher of Israel at that time, a very religious man.
Unless one is born of the Spirit, he'll not enter the kingdom of God.

It's not enough to be born a Jew, Israelite; the Spirit is necessary to be saved.

This is true of all people, not only Jews.

John 7

All believers in Jesus receive the Holy Spirit.

John 14

The Spirit is in all believers forever.

Acts 1

Jesus told His disciples that when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, they would become His witnesses. Those men were of Israel, but witnessed to all.

The Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, just as Jesus promised in John 7, 14 and Acts 1.

Romans 8

Here the Spirit is called the Spirit of God and also the Spirit of Christ. The Spirit is God as much as the Son is God. If anyone does not have the Spirit abiding in him, as Jesus said in John, then that one does not belong to God, to Christ. That one is not saved.

Ephesians 1

Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Ezekiel is one of the Old Testament books in which the Spirit was promised.

He's given as a pledge of our inheritance.

Lead your discussion back to Ezekiel 37.

Verses 15-23

What is this word from the Lord about?

Ezekiel was to take two sticks and write names on them:

One stick for Judah and the sons of Israel his companions / associates

One stick for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all Israel his companions / associates

These represented the two nations of Judah and Israel,
the two nations Edom had wanted to claim for their land.

Then he was to join the two sticks in his hands and make them one stick.

Then when the people saw him do that, they would ask about it.

He was to tell them God was going to make them one in His hand.

God will:

Take Israel from the nations

Gather them

Bring them to their own land

Make them one nation in the land

Deliver / save them from places / backslidings in which they sinned

Cleanse them

Be their God

Verses 24-28

What are the prophecies in these verses?

God's servant David will be king over the two nations who become one.

Only one king—the line of David, the line of the former kings of Judah in Jerusalem

Verse 25 says God's servant David will be their prince forever.

Relate this to what you have on the timeline.

At this point, you can ask what your group learned from the cross-references about David.

Ezekiel 34:23-31

When God restores Israel, He'll set over them one shepherd—His servant David—to feed them. The Lord will be their God, and His servant David will be prince among them.

Jeremiah 30

This is also a prophecy about the restoration of Israel and Judah.

They'll serve the Lord and David their king whom God will raise up for them.

Jeremiah 33

It's another prophecy about Israel's restoration and cleansing.

A righteous Branch of David will spring forth to execute justice and righteousness on earth.

Here both the Davidic covenant and the covenant with the Levitical priests are mentioned. Neither will be broken.

David will never lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel.

The Levitical priests will never lack a man to minister to the Lord and make offerings.

Hosea 3

Israel will not have a king or prince for many days.

The last king of either Israel or Judah was Zedekiah whom Nebuchadnezzar dethroned and took captive in 586 B.C.

NOTE: The Roman Senate elected Herod the Great as “King of the Jews” and he ruled all the Roman Province of Judea when Jesus was born. But Herod was not an Israelite.

Afterward, Israel will return and seek the Lord and David their king in the last days.

Amos 9

God will raise up the fallen booth of David.

Israel will possess the remnant of Edom—another similar prophecy to Ezekiel 35 and Obadiah.

Zechariah 12 and 13

At the time of the end, the Spirit of grace and supplication (ESV—pleas for mercy) will be poured out on the house of David and Jerusalem’s inhabitants. They’ll look on the one they pierced and mourn over Him. This refers to Jesus.

A fountain will be opened for the house of David and Jerusalem’s inhabitants for sin and impurity / uncleanness. This sounds like the time when God cleanses Israel.

Isaiah 11

This also has a connection with David at the time when Israel is restored.

Jesse was David’s father. It’s a prophecy about Jesus judging the earth.

NOTE: Jesus came from David’s line according to Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Many think all the prophecies about David are references to Jesus. But some also think that specific prophecies are referring to God raising up David. Help your group to observe exactly what the text says and discuss based on that. You need to watch your time and not let a debate on this keep your group from discussing the rest of this lesson.

This is the time when the Lord gathers Israel the second time from the nations to bring them back to their land. The first time was after the 70 years of Babylonian exile. The Romans dispersed Israel again in A.D. 70 when they destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

Lead your discussion back to Ezekiel 37:26-28.

What else did God promise about Israel at this time?

He will:

Make an everlasting covenant of peace with them

Multiply them

These are the same promises as in Ezekiel 34. Show this on the timeline.

What is promised in 37:26-28 which is not in Ezekiel 34?

God will set His sanctuary in their midst forever, His dwelling place with them

Add this to the timeline last column.

This is when He sanctifies Israel, and all the nations will know Him as the Lord who does that.

Ask what else your group learned about this time of Israel's regathering to their land.

Isaiah 60

When Israel returns, the place of God's sanctuary among them will be glorious.

They'll return for the name of the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

It will be the time when peace administers the land and people.

Their time of mourning will be over; the people will be righteous and possess the land.

Jeremiah 31

God promised a new covenant with both Israel and Judah. He will be their God, and they will be His people. They'll all know Him and have forgiveness.

Jeremiah 32

It's the time of the everlasting covenant. God will be their God. They'll have one heart to fear Him and not turn away. It's the time of their restoration.

John 1

At Jesus' first coming when He came to His own, Israel, but as a whole they didn't receive Him. Some of them did believe in Him and became His children then.

Matthew 24 and 25

When Jesus returns to earth, He'll gather His elect.

He'll sit on His glorious throne and judge the nations.

NOTE: Jesus spoke this to men of Israel in Jerusalem at the temple. In this context, "His elect" is probably a reference to the elect of Israel at the time of His return. He'll judge the nations for how they treated Jesus' brothers, Israel, during the time of the great tribulation.

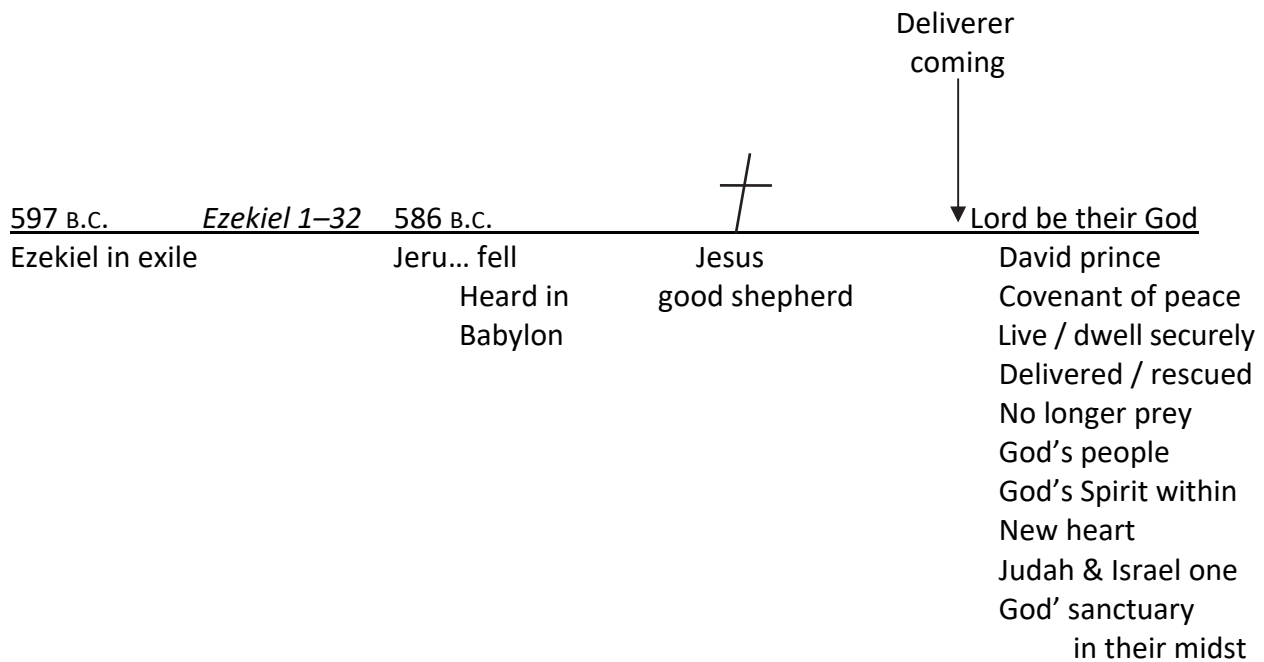
Romans 11

Paul wrote this after Jesus' first coming, His death, resurrection, and ascension to God. Salvation for Israel is coming—God's covenant with them will be fulfilled when He comes. But for now there is a partial hardening of Israel. He has not rejected His people.

When Paul said "all Israel will be saved," it was after God judged His sheep Israel according to Ezekiel 34:15-24.

To end your discussion, you can ask your group if they believe what God said about Israel's future. Do they believe what they've learned about His Holy Spirit and their own lives?

If you have time left and some in your group did the optional study on the Feasts of Israel, ask them what they learned and let them share with the group.



EZEKIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 38–39
- God’s prophecy against Gog

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about Ezekiel 1–32. They can look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for what they can’t remember.

Ezekiel 1-24

Visions, signs, and prophecies about the coming siege and destruction of Jerusalem

Ezekiel 25–32

Prophecies against other nations; Babylon will take them

These prophecies (chapters 1–32) came from the Lord to Ezekiel from the 5th through the 12th years of the exile.

Now ask about Ezekiel 33–37.

Word reached Ezekiel in Babylon that Jerusalem had been taken.

Prophecies about Israel’s future: God with His people living securely on their land

One nation instead of two in their land, cleansed and sanctified by God, His Spirit within

Use the simple time line as a visual aid. See the last page of this lesson’s guide for a sample. Briefly review the main points of prophecies for Israel which are not yet fulfilled:

God will care for His sheep—the house of Israel
gather them back to their land
set one shepherd over them, His servant David
be their God

A covenant of peace

Israel live securely on their own land, no longer a prey to the nations

God will make the land fruitful

cleanse them and give a new heart and His Spirit

Israel will no longer profane His name, but walk in His statutes and ordinances / rules
The cities will be rebuilt, and men will multiply

2 nations become one nation in their own land
God’s sanctuary in their midst—Lord who sanctifies Israel

What are Ezekiel 38–39 about?

God’s prophecies against Gog

NOTE: Keep your discussion focused on what the text says. Some in your group might want to go immediately to the controversy about when these things in Ezekiel 38–39 will take place. The main points are in the chapters themselves, not other places. Therefore, lay the foundation of what the chapters say.

EZEKIEL 38

Who is Gog?

He’s of the land of Magog.
He’s the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as a visual aid.
Compare what Ezekiel 27:13 says about Tubal and Meshech.

They were in trade with Tyre, paying for merchandise with men’s lives.

Verses 1-6

What are the main points in these verses?

God will turn him and bring him out with his army, a great company / host
Persia, Ethiopia / Cush, and Put
Gomer and Beth-togarmah

According to the map, where are these places?

What’s the context of Ezekiel 27, where they’re also mentioned?

The whole chapter is a lamentation over Tyre, the great merchant city/nation.

Verses 10-14 say Persia and Put were in Tyre’s army, and Beth-togarmah contributed war horses for wares.

Verses 7-9

What will happen?

God will tell Gog to be prepared, because he'll be summoned in the latter years to come into the land of Israel.

The land

Restored from the sword
Its people gathered from nations back to Israel
People living / dwelling securely

This is the same description of the land and people begun in Ezekiel 34. It describes the latter years for Israel, a time still future.

Gog will go up like a storm, a cloud covering the land. Compare this with Ezekiel 1:4.

At some time when Israel is restored and gathered, Gog will lead many peoples against them. But God brings him for His purpose.

How do the cross-references of Day Five help to define when Israel will live securely?

Ezekiel 28:25-26 and 34:23-31

It's the time after God gathers the house of Israel from where they've been scattered. David will be their prince; God will be their God who makes a covenant of peace with them. They'll live securely in their land knowing Him and afraid of the nations no longer.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

This is the time when the righteous Branch of David reigns as king over the earth. It's after Jesus comes back to earth as King. Israel will be saved and live securely because the Lord our righteousness is reigning.

Zechariah 14:9-11

When the Lord, Jesus, is king over all the earth, the people of Jerusalem will live securely.

Verses 10-13

How do these verses relate to the previous ones?

This tells what Gog thinks and says.

Gog will devise an evil plan / scheme to go against the land of unwallled villages, people at rest and living / dwelling securely. His reason is to capture / seize spoil.

The description of Israel continues with:

Waste places now inhabited
People gathered from the nations
They acquired cattle and goods
They live at the center of the world

Who is mentioned in verse 13 and why? Compare this with the people in [Ezekiel 27:20-25](#).

Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish will ask if Gog has come to capture / seize spoil.

All of these nations traded with Tyre. They're merchants.

Verses 14-16

How do these verses continue the flow of thought in this chapter?

Gog will know when Israel is living securely.
He'll come from the remote parts of the north with a mighty army against Israel.
It's the last days when God brings him, verses 4-8.

God states His reason in verse 16—that the nations will know Him when He is sanctified (ESV—vindicates his holiness) through Gog before their eyes.

Verses 17-23

How do these verses explain what God means in verse 16?

Verse 17 mentions former prophets who prophesied regarding Israel. Ezekiel was one.

God asks a question about Gog being the one they prophesied He would bring against Israel. It seems the answer to the question is yes.

God's anger will come in the form of a great earthquake in Israel when Gog comes against the land of Israel.

Everything will shake at God's presence.
He'll send a torrential rain with hailstones, fire, and brimstone / sulfur on Gog's army.
This will be His judgment.

He'll call for a sword against Gog on His mountains and everyone's sword will go against his brother. Seems like confusion because of the earthquake, and Gog's army turns on itself.

This is how God will sanctify Himself (ESV—show his holiness) through Gog before the nations. The nations will know He is the Lord.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme on their At a Glance chart.

God will bring Gog against Israel in the latter years

EZEKIEL 39

Verses 1-8

What are the main points in these verses?

Again God said He is against Gog.

This seems to describe more of what happens beginning with Ezekiel 38:17-23.

Verse 6 adds that God will send fire on Magog, the land of Gog.

God will make His holy name known in Israel's midst.

His holy name will not be profaned anymore.

Verse 8 repeats that God said it, so it will happen.

Verses 9-10

What will happen after Gog and his army are destroyed in Israel?

The people of Israel will make fires for fuel with the weapons for 7 years.

They'll take the spoil and plunder those who came against them.

Gog came for the spoil, but became the plunder for Israel.

Verses 11-16

What are these verses about?

Israel will bury the dead for 7 months to cleanse their land.

Gog himself will be buried with them in the valley of Hamon-gog.

A city will be named Hamonah.

Verses 17-20

Who are these verses about?

God told Ezekiel to speak to the birds and beasts to gather for a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, to eat flesh and drink the blood of those slain.

Then the people of Israel bury what's left of the bodies for 7 months.

Verses 21-24

How do these verses relate to Ezekiel 38:17–39:20?

God again stated His purpose for bringing Gog against Israel.
He'll set His glory among the nations; they'll see His judgment.
Israel will know that He's their God.

These verses focus on Israel with no mention of Gog.

The nations will know about Israel.

They were exiled (ESV—went into captivity) because of their own iniquity.
God hid His face from them and gave them to their adversaries.
They fell by the sword.
All because of their uncleanness.

Compare this with how Israel responds to the dead in their land, verses 12-16.

They spend 7 months burying the dead to cleanse their land.

Verses 25-29

How does this chapter end?

The focus of these verses is on Israel and the Lord.

God restated several things which were said before in this segment of Ezekiel.

Restore Israel's fortunes
Mercy on the whole house of Israel
Jealous for His holy name
Forget their disgrace / shame and treachery
They live / dwell securely on their own land, no one to make them afraid

Verse 27 says God will be sanctified (ESV—vindicate his holiness) through Israel in the nations' sight. That's the purpose stated in both Ezekiel 38 and 39.

Verse 28 continues thoughts from verses 22-24.

Israel will know He's the Lord their God because

He made them go into exile.
Then He gathered / assembled them from the nations to their own land

When He pours out His Spirit on them, He'll no longer hide His face from them.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Gog will fall on Israel's mountains; Israel live securely

At this point in your discussion, you can ask your group what they learned from the other mentions of Gog in the Bible and how or if each relates to Ezekiel 38–39.

1 Chronicles 5:1-4

Gog was the name of a descendant from Reuben, one of the 12 sons of Israel. This has no relation to Ezekiel 38–39.

Revelation 20:8

Nations will gather for a battle to go up against Jerusalem. Gog and Magog are named as participants.

Ask your group if they think the reference in Revelation 20 is the same event as in Ezekiel 38–39. Ask them to explain why based on their study of the Bible and not just what commentators say.

Revelation 20 and Ezekiel 38–39 have a lot in common.

If this is the same event, then it's at the end of the 1,000 years, millennium, in Revelation 20.

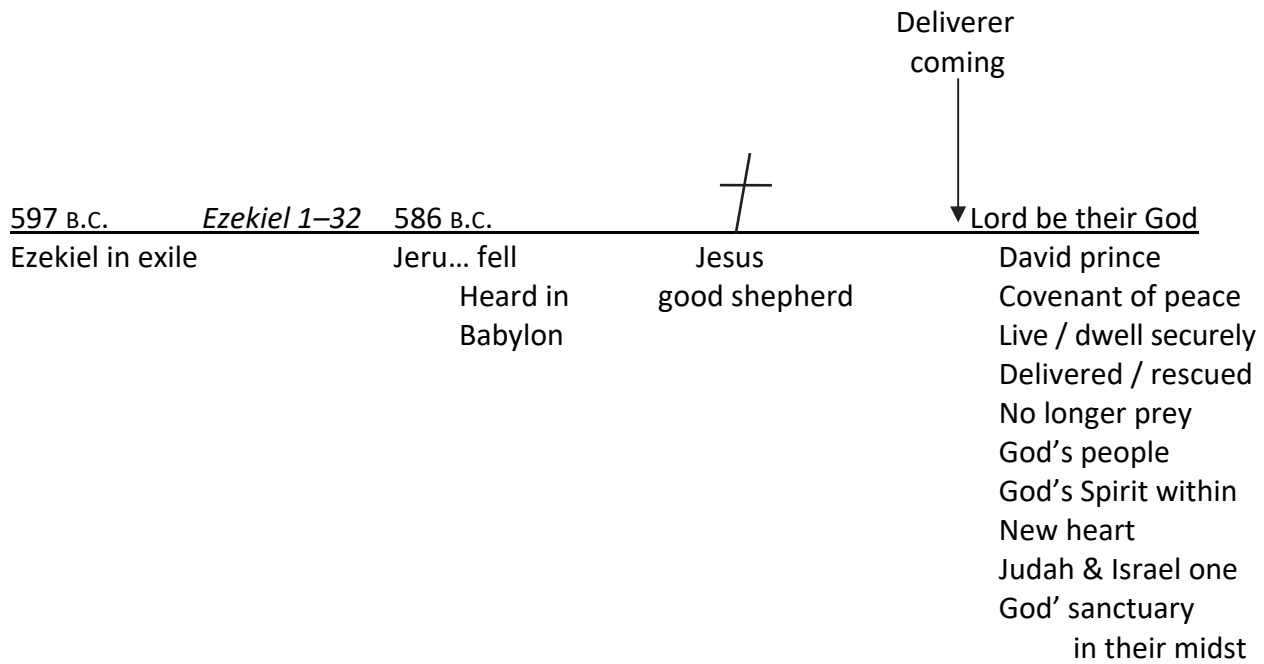
Some do not think it's the same event.

One reason is that there are 7 months for Israel to bury the dead after they are killed by the Lord. And there are 7 years for them to burn the weapons for fuel.

Another reason is that in Ezekiel God will send an earthquake, but in Revelation He sends fire from heaven to destroy Gog and the army.

Based on the text of Ezekiel and the other cross-references of Day Five, the time when Gog comes against Israel is after Jesus returns to rule the earth as King of Kings. It's when Israel is living securely on their land after being gathered there by God.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group what they learned about the Lord and Israel from Ezekiel 38–39. How does it relate to them?



EZEKIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 40–43
- God’s house and His glory

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they remember about the two main segments in Ezekiel. They might use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for what they can’t remember.

Ezekiel 1–32 prophecies about Babylon taking Jerusalem and other nations
In this segment, Ezekiel had a vision of God’s glory leaving the temple and Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 33–39 prophecies about the time when Israel will be gathered and living securely on their own land; alive by God’s Spirit and protected by Him

The second part of Ezekiel is filled with hope for the exiles who had lost their city and temple.

You might continue the simple time line from previous lessons as a visual aid. See the last page of the guide for this lesson. Briefly review the main points of prophecies for Israel which are not yet fulfilled:

God will make the land fruitful
gather the people back to their land, one nation
cleanse them and give a new heart and His Spirit
set one shepherd over them, His servant David
be their God
make a covenant of peace with them

Israel live / dwell securely on their own land, no longer a prey to the nations,
no longer profane His name, but walk in His statutes and ordinances
Cities will be rebuilt, and men will multiply
God’s sanctuary in their midst—Lord who sanctifies Israel

God will bring Gog and his army against Israel when they’re living securely in their land.
He’ll sanctify Himself (vindicate his holiness) through Gog in the nations’ sight.

What is Ezekiel 40–43 about?

The temple, God’s sanctuary in Israel’s midst
His house and His glory returning to it

Ask your group where to put this on the timeline.

It’s when God is in their midst after Israel is gathered to their own land and saved.

EZEKIEL 40

Verses 1-4

How does this chapter begin?

In the 25th year of exile, the 14th year after Jerusalem was taken

In Ezekiel 33:21, the exiles heard the city was taken.

Ask your group to consider the message Ezekiel was to give to those exiles who had been in captivity for a total of about 33 years, almost half of the 70 years of exile.

This would have brought hope to those who were in Babylon and knew their holy city and God’s temple there had been destroyed.

What happened to Ezekiel?

He was taken in visions to the land of Israel to a very high mountain.

This was not unusual in the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 1 is a vision.

Ezekiel 8–11 are visions at the temple in Jerusalem.

From there he saw a structure like a city—it was the temple.

He saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, and the man had a line of flax (ESV—linen cord) and a measuring rod / reed in his hand. He was standing in the gateway. This was the gate facing east, verse 6.

The man told Ezekiel to see, hear, and give attention to (ESV—set his heart upon) what he was going to show him. Ezekiel was brought there to see the temple and declare all he saw to the house of Israel.

At this point, you might ask your group to compare this with Ezekiel 43:10-11.

He was to describe the temple to Israel so they would be ashamed of their iniquities.

Verses 5-49

What did the man show Ezekiel in the vision? Tell your group to look at their diagrams in the lesson as visual aids to trace where the man took Ezekiel and what he showed him.

First, he showed Ezekiel the outside wall around the temple.
He measured the thickness and height of the wall—one rod each, about 10 ½ feet.

Then he went to the east gate and measured things close to that gate.

The guardroom and porch / vestibule of the gate
Pillars and windows were also measured.

Then he took Ezekiel into the outer court and measured it.

A gate faced north, and a gate faced south.

Then he took Ezekiel through the gate which faced south into the inner court.

He measured the south gate and the things around it.
Then they went toward the east and measured there.
Next they went to the north gate and measured there.

Verses 38-43 tell about chambers, porches / vestibule, and tables at the gates where the burnt, sin, and guilt offerings were rinsed and slaughtered.

NOTE: Tell your group they'll study about the offerings in the next lesson.

What other chambers are mentioned in verses 44-47?

Those for the singers and the priests

Two groups of priests are described in this chapter.

Those who keep charge of the temple
The priests who keep charge of the altar—the sons of Zadok
These are the ones who come near to minister to the Lord.

NOTE: The priests, especially the sons of Zadok, are also in the next lesson.

Where was Ezekiel taken at the end of this chapter?

The man brought him to the porch / vestibule of the temple

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Ezekiel's vision of the temple; man measured

EZEKIEL 41

How does this continue from chapter 40?

The man and Ezekiel went from the temple porch / vestibule to the nave. This refers to the holy place, not the Holy of Holies. The nave was 20 cubits wide and 40 cubits long.

Verse 3 says that he went inside and measured the most holy place as 20 cubits by 20 cubits. This is the Holy of Holies.

This chapter contains the measurements of the temple proper. It also describes the carvings of cherubim and palm trees.

The cherubim have been in all three of the visions Ezekiel had. Here the carved cherubim only have two faces, instead of the four in the other visions.

The last part of this chapter describes an altar of wood which was the table before the Lord. That's where the altar of incense was in the previous temple and tabernacle. The altar of incense was made of wood overlaid with gold.

Verses 23-26 tell that both the nave and the sanctuary had a double door. The door to the sanctuary will be where the veil was to the Holy of Holies.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

The holy place

EZEKIEL 42

Where did the man take Ezekiel in this chapter, and what did he see?

They went back out into the outer court toward the north.

There was a building and chambers. The chambers were three stories high.

The north and south chambers were where the priests who were near to the Lord ate the holy things.

More offerings are mentioned in verse 13—grain, sin, and guilt offerings.

This was also where the priests' holy garments were kept.
They didn't wear them in the outer court.

When he finished measuring the inner house, they exited through the east gate, and he measured the wall around the whole structure. The whole measured 500 reeds by 500 reeds, approximately 1 mile.

The outside wall divided the holy and the profane / common.

What's a possible theme for this chapter?

The outer court, holy chambers; finished measuring the inner house

EZEKIEL 43

Verses 1-5

What happens in these verses?

They were at the east gate, and Ezekiel saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east.

It was like the vision he saw when He came to destroy the city, the visions of Ezekiel 8–11, and the vision he saw by the river Chebar in Ezekiel 1.

Ask your group to compare this with the references to Ezekiel 8–11 in the lesson.

In Ezekiel 8–11, he saw the glory of the Lord leave the temple because of abominations, even by the priests.

The glory progressively left—
first the temple threshold,
then the east gate,
then the city.

In the vision of Ezekiel 43, the Lord's glory returned to the temple.

Verses 6-9

What do these verses say about the Lord and Israel?

God will dwell among them forever. Compare this with Ezekiel 37:24-28.

It's the place of His throne. Compare this with Ezekiel 1:26 when His throne was in heaven. At this time in Ezekiel 43 it will be on earth.

They'll not defile His holy name again, neither the people nor the kings.
They defiled His name with their idolatry.

He called for them to put away their harlotry / whoring and the corpses far from Him.

They'll not defile His holy name again when He dwells in their midst.
They will be ashamed for what they've done.

NOTE: Some might remember from Ezekiel Part 1 that Ezekiel 16:60-63 says something similar.

According to Ezekiel 43:11, what was Ezekiel to do with what he saw?

Write it in Israel's sight so they know the whole design of the house.

Ask your group who else benefits from Ezekiel writing this.

Israel from that time on
The church
Anyone who reads the Bible

What was the law of the house / temple?

Holiness, the whole area on the top of the mountain will be holy.

How does this relate to the references to Haggai and Zechariah in the lesson?

Haggai 2:1-9

When God's Spirit is abiding in Israel's midst, He will again fill His house with glory, and it will be greater than the former glory.

The wealth of the nations will fill His house, and there will be peace there.
This sounds like the time of Ezekiel 34–43.

Zechariah 14:16-21

The King, the Lord of hosts, will be in Jerusalem. This refers to the same time as referred to in Ezekiel and Haggai.

All the earth is to go up to worship Him at the Feast of Booths.

The bells on the horses and even all the cooking pots in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord. Relate this to Ezekiel 43:12.

Give time for your group to discuss any application from the New Testament cross-references they studied.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
The command is to glorify God in their bodies.

1 Peter 1:14-16

All believers are commanded to be holy because the Holy One who called us is holy.

After discussing application, lead your discussion back to Ezekiel 43.

Verses 13-27

What are these verses about?

The altar for the sacrifices is to be cleansed / purified and atoned for.

Verse 18 is directed to Ezekiel, the son of man. Following the pronouns in verses 19-27, they're possibly referring to him. From Ezekiel 1:3 it's clear that he was a priest.

NOTE: There is question about who these pronouns refer to, Ezekiel or the priests. Your group might read different interpretations in their commentaries.

The sin offering of a bull will be made for the altar to cleanse / purify and make atonement for it. The Levitical priests of Zadok's line are mentioned again here.

On the 2nd day a sin offering of a male goat will be made to cleanse / purify the altar.

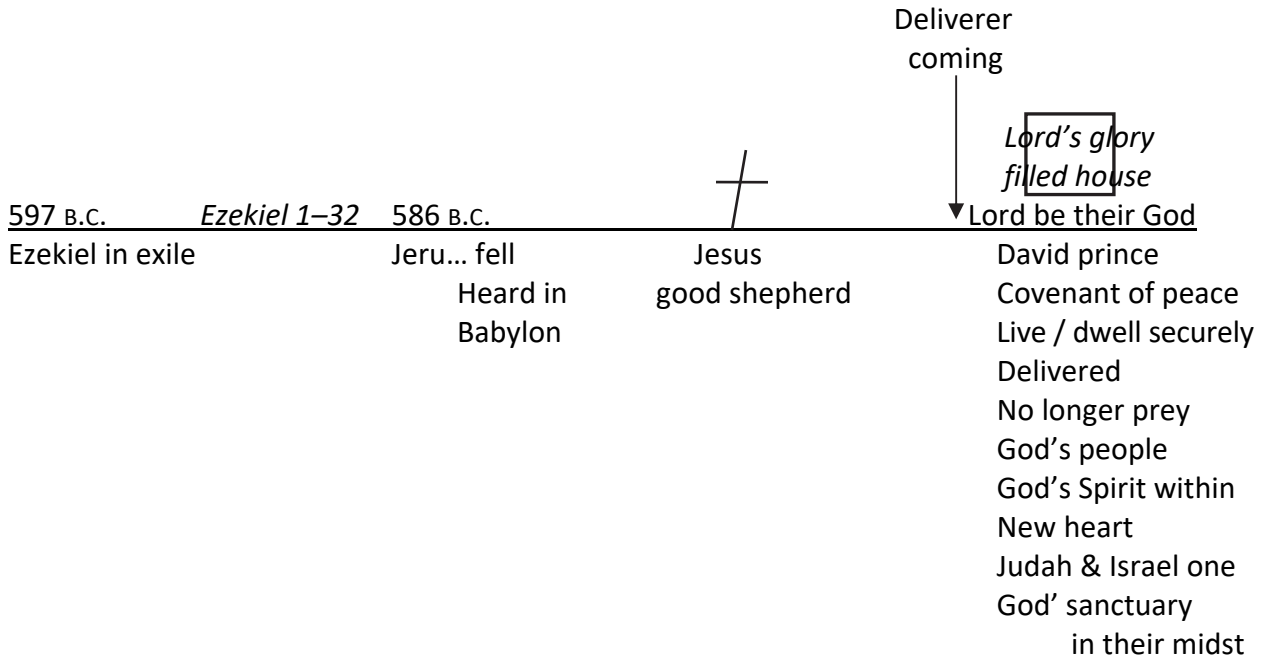
Each day for seven days a bull and a ram will be the burnt offerings.
And daily there will be a goat for a sin offering, along with a bull and ram of the flock.
Those seven days are to make atonement for the altar and purify it.
That's its consecration.

On the 8th day and after the priests will make the offerings.
God then said He'll accept "you;" whoever the "you" is.

Ask about a possible theme for this chapter.

East gate, glory came; altar and priests

Encourage your group that they'll study the significance of all this in the last two lessons.



EZEKIEL PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 44–46
- Priests and offerings

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group about the two main segments in Ezekiel. They can use their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Ezekiel 1–32 prophecies about Babylon taking Jerusalem and other nations
In this segment, Ezekiel had a vision of God’s glory leaving the temple and Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 33–39 prophecies about the time when Israel will be gathered and living securely on their own land; alive by God’s Spirit and protected by Him

The second part of Ezekiel is filled with hope for the exiles who had lost their city and temple.

God will prepare the land of Israel and then bring back the people.
He’ll cleanse them, giving them a new heart and His Spirit.
Israel will walk in His statutes and ordinances.
He’ll set one shepherd over them, His servant David.
He’ll make a covenant of peace with them.
Israel will live securely on their land, no longer a prey to the nations.
Men will multiply, and they’ll no longer profane God’s name.
He’ll put His sanctuary in their midst.

What is Ezekiel 40–43 about?

God’s sanctuary in Israel’s midst
His house / temple and His glory returning to it

Ask your group when this will be?

You can use the timeline from previous lessons as a visual aid here.

It’s when God is in their midst after Israel is gathered to their own land and saved.

Briefly review what your group remembers about the house, priests, and offerings from these chapters. Use the diagrams from Lesson 5 as visual aids for this discussion.

The house, temple, is like a city.
Ezekiel was shown the various parts of it, from outside to the most holy place.
There will be rooms for animals to be washed and tables for slaughtering the offerings.
The priests will have special rooms also for eating the holy things and their holy garments. The priests who draw near to the Lord are Zadok's descendants.

The glory of the Lord came and entered the house / temple.
It's the place of His throne, where He'll dwell among Israel forever.

Ezekiel had the vision to describe it to Israel so that they would be ashamed of their iniquities and stop their abominations.

EZEKIEL 44

What is this chapter about?

The Levitical priests will have charge of God's sanctuary.

Verses 1-3

How does the chapter begin?

The man leading Ezekiel in the vision of the house brought him to the outer east gate of the sanctuary. It seems his journey through the house ended with Ezekiel 43:1-2 and picks up again here in 44:1.

The east gate to the sanctuary was shut and was to remain shut because the Lord's glory entered through it, Ezekiel 43:1-5.

The fact that it's shut probably indicates the Lord will not leave again.

The prince is mentioned in verse 3. It seems that only the prince can sit in the east gate, no one else. That's where he'll eat bread before the Lord. He's allowed to come and go through the gate's porch / vestibule.

The first reference to a prince during this time is in Ezekiel 34:24 where God said His servant David will be prince among Israel when He's their God. Then in Ezekiel 37:24-25 it says again David will be king over Israel and their prince forever.

This Lord is on His throne in the house / temple, and the prince is ruling over Israel.

Verses 4-14

What are these verses about?

Ezekiel was taken around to the north gate to the front of the house, and there he saw the Lord's glory had filled the house. His response was to fall on his face.

Nineteen years before, Ezekiel had seen in visions the Lord's glory left His temple and Jerusalem. Then both the city and the house were destroyed by the Babylonians. Ezekiel was in exile in Babylon when he heard about it 13 years before this vision of the temple and the Lord's glory returning, never to leave again.

You might give your group time to think about this and discuss any relevant application.

What are the Lord's directions to Ezekiel?

Mark well (literally, *set your heart on*¹)

See with your eyes

Hear with your ears all God says about the sanctuary / temple.

He was to tell Israel, the rebellious exiles living in Babylon with him, the Lord had had enough of their abominations.

They had even let foreigners into His sanctuary—the one which was destroyed.

They didn't keep charge of the holy things, but allowed defiling and abominations.

No uncircumcised foreigners were to be allowed in His sanctuary.
The Levites were to have charge of it.

Ask what your group learned about the Levites in verses 10-14.

Those who went far from the Lord when Israel strayed to idols
They'll be punished for their iniquity.

Their descendants will minister in the future sanctuary
Have oversight at the gates
Slaughter the burnt offering and sacrifice for the people
Stand before them to minister
Like they did before their idols

¹ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Ezek 44:5) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

The Levites were a stumbling block to the people in the first temple.
The descendants of this group will not come before the Lord to minister to Him in the future sanctuary.

Why will they serve as priests in this house?

Numbers 18

Aaron and his sons were given all the offerings as a perpetual allotment from the Lord. It's an everlasting covenant.

Numbers 25

Phinehas, Eleazar's son and Aaron's grandson, was jealous for God and stopped His wrath against Israel. Therefore, the Lord gave him and his descendants a covenant of perpetual priesthood. He gave Phinehas His covenant of peace.

Malachi 2

Here again the covenant regarding the priests is mentioned. Here it's the covenant with Levi, a covenant of life and peace.

Jeremiah 33

The Lord said that as David will never lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, the Levitical priests will never lack a man to burn offerings and sacrifices before Him.

Both David and the Levitical priests are mentioned in Ezekiel 40–46 at this time in the future.

Verses 15-31

Who are these verses about?

The second group of Levitical priests
The sons of Zadok
They kept charge of the sanctuary when Israel went astray.

His descendants will minister before the Lord in the sanctuary of Ezekiel 40–44.
They'll offer the fat and blood of the offerings, sacrifices.
They'll come into the sanctuary to God's table, 41:21-26.

They are the ones who'll wear the priestly holy garments.

Only while in the nave and most holy place
Not to be worn in the outer court

NOTE: “Transmit holiness” means to be treated as sacred. It seems like wearing their holy garments in the presence of the people would be treating the people as holy or sacred, the same way they did God. The garments were holy garments which were set apart for wearing in the presence of the Lord only.

They were given specific things to do or not do to teach the people the difference between the holy and the profane, clean and unclean.

They are the ones who will judge disputes.

According to the laws and statutes, they’re to keep the feasts and Sabbaths. If they come near a dead body, they’ll need to be cleansed and offer their sin offering.

So there will be death and sin during the time of this temple and its offerings.

The Lord will be their inheritance as He was the inheritance of the priests in the past. He feeds them with the offerings.

At this point, you might ask what your group learned from studying the cross-references in this lesson relating to Zadok.

1 Samuel 2

Eli was the priest during Samuel’s time. His sons were worthless and evil men. God said that He would not even let there be an old man in Eli’s house.

He would raise up a faithful priest who will do what is in God’s heart and soul. That priest will have an enduring house, descendants. He’ll walk before the Lord’s anointed always.

1 Kings 2

Solomon became king after his father David. He dismissed Abiathar from being priest. This fulfilled 1 Samuel 2 about Eli’s house.

He appointed Zadok as the priest.

1 Chronicles 6:3-8

This is Zadok’s genealogy, from Aaron to the time of Solomon.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Ezekiel 44.

Lord’s glory filled the house; priests—Zadok’s sons

EZEKIEL 45

What is this chapter about?

The allotments of land for inheritance
Use the map as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Verses 1-5

Who has allotments? And where?

The first allotment / portion is for the Lord, a holy portion—where the house will be.
25,000 cubits long and 20,000 wide

The priests' houses will be in this allotment / portion or section.

The Levites have an allotment next to this.

Verses 6-12

Whose allotment / portion is described in these verses?

The city's allotment will be 5,000 cubits by 25,000 alongside the holy portion / district.

The prince will have land on either side of the holy allotment and the city.

What is said about the princes in verses 8-9?

The princes will no longer oppress God's people.
That's what most of Israel's kings did, and it's one of the reasons for God's judgment.
The prince will give the land to Israel according to their tribes. This is explained further
in Ezekiel 48.

Verse 9 seems to be directed to those of Ezekiel's day. The Lord said He'd had enough of
the princes' violence, destruction, injustice, and unrighteousness. He called them to
stop expropriations from / evictions of His people.

What are verses 10-12 about?

They'll have and use just weights and measurements in the future.

Verses 13-17

What are the people and the prince to do?

The people give to the prince and the prince provides for the offerings.
Burnt offerings

Grain offerings
Peace offerings
Drink offerings
To make atonement for Israel

The prince provides for the offerings at the feasts, new moons, and Sabbaths to make atonement for Israel.

Verses 18-25

What are these verses about?

Offerings to atone for the house to cleanse / purify the sanctuary
Sin offering, for the prince and the people at Passover and the seventh month
Feast of Booths

At this point, you can ask your group what they learned from cross-references in the lesson about offerings.

Leviticus

The burnt offering was to be accepted before the Lord, to make atonement.
The grain offering was a memorial portion on the altar, a soothing aroma to the Lord.
The sin offering was for anyone who sinned unintentionally.
The sin and guilt offerings were to make atonement for a person's sin.
The peace offering was for thanksgiving, votive, or freewill offering.

Hebrews 10

The Law was a shadow of the good things to come. In the Law, Genesis through Deuteronomy, there were pictures of things fulfilled in Jesus Christ's first coming.

Galatians 3

The Law's purpose was to lead to Christ so people are justified by faith in Him. It was added because of transgressions—to point out sins.

Yearly sacrifices could never make perfect those who offered them. They served to remind of sin. But only Christ's offering can take away sins, make perfect those who are sanctified.

Verses 15-17 quote references that are about the time of Ezekiel 34–46.

Verse 18 indicates that those who are forgiven no longer need sin offerings.

So the question is: what are the offerings for in Ezekiel 40–46?
Tell your group they'll study more about this in the last lesson.

The offerings in Ezekiel are clearly referring to people of Israel at the time of the temple when they're living securely on their own land.

This is after Jesus returns to earth. That means there will be sacrifices going on when He's ruling from His throne in His house.

Those are the facts, if one interprets this literally.

At this point, you might ask your group to wait until the last discussion to draw their conclusions about these things.

What is a possible theme for Ezekiel 45?

Land allotments; prince provide offerings

EZEKIEL 46

Verses 1-15

For what other times is the prince to provide offerings?

Sabbaths
New moons
Festivals and appointed feasts
Daily

Verses 16-18

What happens if the prince makes a gift from his inheritance?

At the year of liberty, it returns to the prince's inheritance.

Verses 19-24

Where was Ezekiel led next?

From 44:1-4 where he was at the east gate then brought by the north gate to the front of the house, he went through the entrance into the priests' holy chambers.

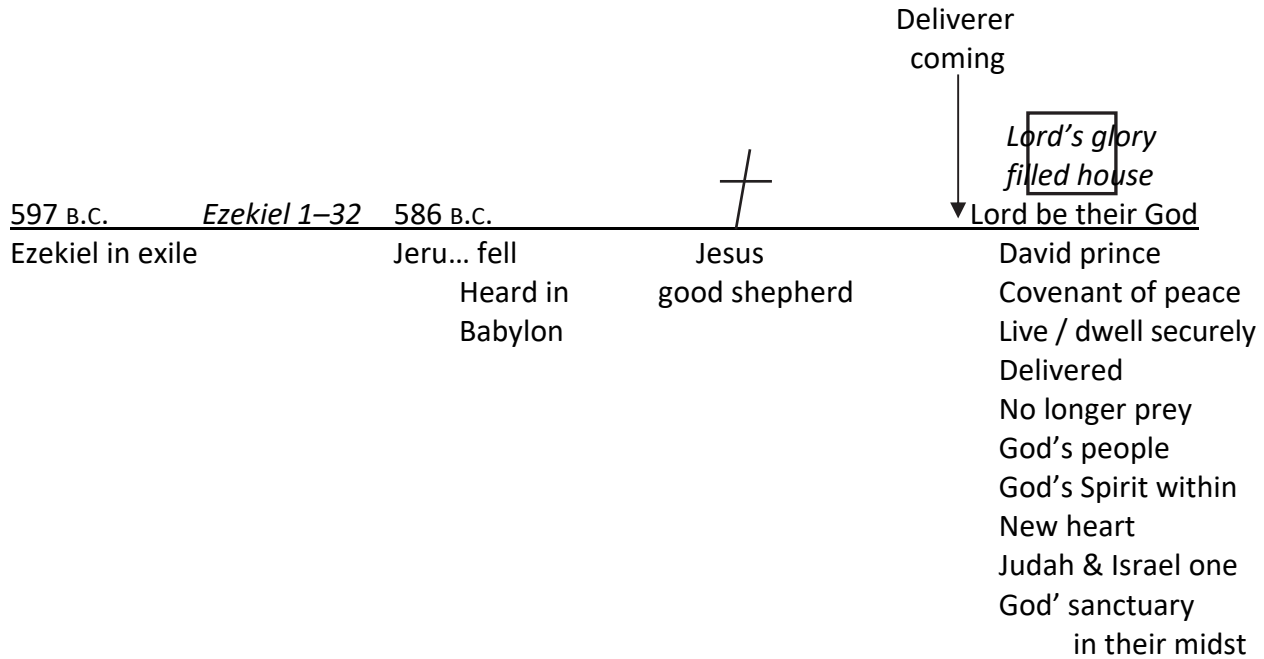
To the extreme rear west was the place where the priests boil the guilt and sin offering and bake the grain offering. Again it was separated from the outer court and the people.

Then Ezekiel was brought into the outer court to see in each of the four corners a small court. These enclosed courts are where the ministers of the house will boil the peoples' sacrifices.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a theme for this chapter.

Prince's offerings and gifts

To close your discussion, encourage your group to complete the last lesson as it will give them things to consider as they answer some of their questions.



EZEKIEL PART 2

LEADER GUIDE

Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Ezekiel 47–48
- Israel, the nations and the church

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask your group about the two main segments in Ezekiel. Use the At a Glance charts as visual aid if needed.

Ezekiel 1–32 prophecies about Babylon taking Jerusalem and other nations
In this segment, Ezekiel had a vision of God’s glory leaving the temple and Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 33–48 prophecies about the time when Israel will be gathered and living securely on their own land; alive by God’s Spirit and protected by Him

Ezekiel 40–48, Ezekiel had vision of God’s glory returning to the temple in Jerusalem.

At this point, you might ask about the last time reference in Ezekiel, and the vision in Ezekiel 40–48. Use the temple diagrams as visual aids if needed.

Ezekiel 40:1, in the 25th year of his exile, Ezekiel saw the vision of the future house. It was as large as a city. Chapters 40–42 give its measurements.

The Lord’s glory entered it and filled the house, Ezekiel 43:1-4. He heard a voice say this was the place of the Lord’s throne, where He would dwell among Israel forever.

The east gate to the sanctuary was shut and was to remain shut because the Lord’s glory entered through it, Ezekiel 44:1-4. The fact that it’s shut probably indicates the Lord will not leave again.

Help your group to consider what this message could have meant to those Israelites who were exiled in Babylon and heard that Jerusalem and the temple had been destroyed. The second group of exiles, Ezekiel’s group, had been there for 25 years.

Ask what else your group remembers from Ezekiel 45–46.

Priests, offerings, and princes are part of Israel at the time of this house.

EZEKIEL 47

What is this chapter about?

Healing water from the sanctuary and the boundaries of the land

Use the map in the Appendix as a visual aid.

Verses 1-12

What do these verses say about the water?

This was still in Ezekiel's vision with the man leading him through and around the house / temple, giving the measurements.

Water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar.

The man took Ezekiel out of the house by the north gate to see the water outside.

It was trickling from the south side of the east gate.
1,000 cubits to the east, it was ankle-deep.
Then another 1,000 cubits and it was knee-deep.
Another 1,000 cubits and it reached the loins.
Then after another thousand cubits it was a river.

There were many trees on both sides of the river.

It goes to the sea and makes its water fresh. Verse 10 indicates the area of the Dead Sea. The river has healing water everywhere it goes.

Only swamps and marshes will not be fresh.

There will be plenty of fish in the river and food from the trees on each side of it. Each month the trees will bear fruit, and the leaves are for healing.

Compare this with Zechariah 14:1-11.

This is the time when the Lord returns to earth, as in Ezekiel.
Living waters will flow out of Jerusalem—His house is in Jerusalem.

Half toward the eastern sea, the Dead Sea
Half toward the western sea, the Mediterranean Sea

NOTE: There is a marginal note for Ezekiel 47:9 which says “river” is “literally, two rivers.”¹

Lead your discussion back to Ezekiel 47.

Verses 13-23

What are these verses about?

Verses 13-14 tell about dividing the land for the 12 tribes' inheritance.
Joseph is given 2 portions.
The other tribes' portions are equal.

Verses 15-20 describe the boundaries of the land.

Verse 21 says this is the land to be divided among the tribes of Israel.

But according to verse 22, aliens living among the people of Israel at this time will also be given an inheritance among the tribes where they live.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Ezekiel 47.

Water flowing from the house / temple; land's boundaries

EZEKIEL 48

What is this chapter about?

The land portions and allotments for the 12 tribes

Who is given land?

Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, and Judah are given land north of the city.

Ezekiel 47:13 says Joseph will have two portions. His sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, each are given a portion. The tribe of Levi has land within the holy allotment.

NOTE: The firstborn was to receive the double portion. Because of Reuben's sin, Jacob (Israel) gave the birthright to the firstborn of his second wife. Joseph was Rachel's son.

The holy allotment with the sanctuary, Levites, and priests is next.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995). Ezek 47:9.

Then south of that is the city.

The prince's land is on either side of the holy allotment and city property.

Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, and Gad have land south of the city.

Verses 30-34 name the city gates.

Three on the north—Reuben, Judah, and Levi
Three on the east—Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan
Three on the south—Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun
Three on the west—Gad, Asher, and Naphtali

How does Ezekiel end? What might this have meant to the people of Ezekiel's time?

The city will be named, "the Lord is there."
He won't leave them from that time on.
They'll have a city from then on.

What is a theme of the last chapter?

Land for the tribes of Israel

At this point in your discussion you can ask, who will make offerings and sacrifices when the Lord is on His throne in Israel's midst?

Israel will. According to Ezekiel 45:16-25, they'll be making offerings and sacrifices after the Lord comes into His house / temple.

These are also the ones who received God's Spirit, cleansed with new hearts.

Although they have His Spirit and He dwells among them, there will still be sin and death as the result of it (Isaiah 65:9-24).

Do these sacrifices and offerings save people?

Hebrews 10:4-10, Acts 4:12 and Galatians 3 are clear that only Jesus saves. The offering of His body is the only offering that takes away sins. Israel is saved the same way everyone else is—by faith.

Who else will be on earth when the Lord returns? What will they do? What will they be like?

Matthew 25

When the Son, the King, comes and sits on His glorious throne, He'll judge the nations. The unrighteous will go into eternal punishment.

At that time, there will be righteous people among the nations, and they'll inherit the kingdom, enter into eternal life.

Zechariah 14

They are the righteous ones left from those who went against Jerusalem. It's the time of the Lord's return to be King over all the earth.

They'll go to Jerusalem every year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and celebrate the Feasts of Booths.

Any families who don't will have no rain. These nations have a choice whether or not to worship the King, the Lord, Zechariah 14. If they don't obey, then there are consequences.

Revelation 20:1-10

This is the time when the Lord reigns on earth as King of Kings.

Satan is bound so that he can no longer deceive the nations. So any disobedience by those of the nations cannot be attributed to the devil.

At the end of this 1,000-year reign, the devil will be released and gather the nations for war. They will come against Jerusalem, but fire from heaven will destroy them.

Who else will be on earth? What will they be like?

The church

Ephesians 3

Both Jews and Gentiles make up the church—believers in Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

This is a letter written to the church. When Jesus comes, He will bring with Him believers' souls—those who died. Those believers' bodies will arise and be caught up in the clouds with the believers who are still alive at that time. They'll all meet the Lord in the air and always be with Him. This is called "the rapture."

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

This is another letter written to the church. All believers in Jesus Christ will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. The mortal will put on immortality. The dead will be raised imperishable. This explains what happens to believers' physical bodies at "the rapture."

Revelation 19:7-8, 11-16 and Ephesians 5:25-32

The bride of the Lamb is described as clothed in fine linen, bright and clean. The armies in heaven following the King of kings and Lord of lords are described the same way. Ephesians says that the church is like a wife to Christ, His bride.

Revelation 17:14

Those with the King of kings and Lord of lords are the called, chosen, and faithful. This sounds like a description of the church.

Zechariah 14

When the Lord comes to be king over all the earth, holy ones will come with Him.

The church is sanctified by Jesus Christ's sacrifice once for all (Hebrews 10:10). The church will be with the Lord from the time that He comes in the clouds to change all believers and take them up to be with Him.

When He returns to earth to rule as King of kings, the church will be with Him in imperishable and immortal bodies. No sin and no death. The church will not be making sacrifices and offerings during the 1,000-year reign—the time of Ezekiel 34-48.

What is Revelation 21–22 about?

After the 1,000 years when Jesus the King rules on earth, this present heavens and earth will be destroyed. There will be a new heaven, new earth, and a new Jerusalem.

The description in Revelation 21–22 is similar to the time of the 1,000 years, but there are also some differences. One is that there's no death.

There is no temple in the new Jerusalem because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple. His tabernacle or dwelling is among men. God Himself will be living among His people. People will be holy as He is.

The foundation stones are named for the 12 apostles of the church, and as during the millennium, the 12 gates have Israel's tribes' names.

The city is 1,500 miles square and as high. It's made of pure gold like clear glass.

The river of life and the tree of life are there, similar to the healing waters from under the temple and the trees bearing fruit 12 months, with leaves for healing in the 1,000 years.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group if they are truly seeking the city which is to come.

Hebrews 13:10-16

That city to come had not come by the time this was written. They still looked forward to it.

Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

Even Abraham looked to this city by faith. God is the builder of the heavenly city.

2 Peter 3:11-18

He wrote of the new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells.

Give your group some time to share what this study has done for them.