

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

Judah, From Isaiah to Exile

Ezekiel and the Exile of Judah

■ 11/9: 2 Kings 24:18 – 25:9

We see Jerusalem in its final days, facing utter destruction because of an installed king who defied Babylonian rule, but we also see hope as a new king shows kindness to a rightful successor

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
11/16/2025

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Judah, From Isaiah to Exile Ezekiel and the Exile of Judah

Ezekiel's Sign

Ezekiel 3:10-11; 24:15-
24, 27

Background

- Ezekiel means 'strengthened by God'
- He grew up in Jerusalem where he trained to be a priest
- At age 25 he was among the 2nd group of captives taken to Babylon with King Jehoiachin around 597 B.C.

Background

- At age 30 he became a prophet of God while in captivity (**Ezekiel 1:1**)
- Ezekiel delivered God's messages with straightforward language that everyone could understand, whether they listened or not (**Ezekiel 2:7**)

Background

- His prophecies included both visions of judgement as well as hope for the future of Israel
- Chapters 1 – 24 deal with God's judgement on Israel
- Chapters 25 – 32 deal with God's judgement on certain nations

Background

- Chapters 33 – 48 deal with the restoration of Israel – both the return from exile, and the future hope for all of humanity - i.e. the future reign of Christ

Background

- His prophecies often comes through symbolic visions – e.g. in **chapter 1**, he describes the 4 living creatures – the same kind of beings described in **Revelation 19**. Much in Revelation draws from OT Scripture

Background

- Ezekiel conveyed God's messages in word, in art, symbolic signs and in his own life's experiences – both good and tragic – amongst them was the death of his wife, which God uses in today's lesson

Last Days of Judah

597	Jehoiachin (Son)	Evil / Evil	Isaiah Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel	2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36
597 - 586	Zedekiah (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil	(Lamentations)	2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36
Judah into Babylonian captivity - 586 BC				

Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Moreover He said to me: “Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears.



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse."



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Also the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ¹⁶ "Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down.



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your ^[a]lips, and do not eat man's bread of sorrow."



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:18 (NKJV)

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



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:19 – 20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And the people said to me, “Will you not tell us what these things signify to us, that you behave so?”

²⁰ Then I answered them, “The word of the Lord came to me, saying,



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:21 (NKJV)

²¹ 'Speak to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I will profane My sanctuary, ^[b]your arrogant boast, the desire of your eyes, the ^[c]delight of your soul; and your sons and daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword.



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:22 (NKJV)

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



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:23 (NKJV)

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



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:24 (NKJV)

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



Lesson Text

EZEKIEL 24:27 (NKJV)

27 On that day your mouth will be opened to him who has escaped; you shall speak and no longer be mute. Thus you will be a sign to them, and they shall know that I am the Lord.' "



Commentary: Seriousness of Sin

- We saw in Jeremiah what idolatry looked like. Even amongst sacred things like the Temple, the people thought the building itself would shield them from any calamity that may come their way

Commentary: Seriousness of Sin

- Idolatry can also manifest in the people we love. Again, idolatry is ANYTHING or ANYONE we put ahead of God.
- Even Jesus challenged not to put people above the mission (**Luke 9:57-62**)

Commentary: Recognition

- We know God used Ezekiel's personal tragedy and his call to mourn inwardly as message to the people as to how they should handle the tragedy that is about to befall their beloved temple and their loved ones.

Commentary: Recognition

- It was a severe method of getting their attention and for them to recognize God's sovereignty over them.
- God gave them several changes through many prophets to acknowledge Him, but they refused

Commentary: Recognition

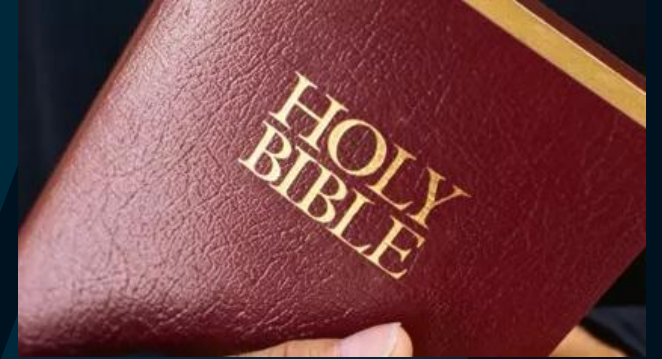
- We may never be comfortable with how God decided to convey this message, nor understand why God took Ezekiel's wife, when he himself did nothing to deserve it, but the calling on his life was high as it was with many prophets of God

Commentary: Recognition

- But like Jeremiah, Isaiah and Daniel – i.e. the Major prophets, their duty to God was unconditional, resolute and unshakable. They are the anchors of both Old and New Testament revelation for, laying the prophecies for the coming of Christ.

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11/16/2025

Scripture References



Refer to Lesson Text

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN