Ezekiel 4:1 – 15:8

**Outline:** (From New Interpreters Bible, p1102)

Ezekiel 4:1 – 5:17, “This is a sign for the House of Israel”

Ezekiel 6:1 – 7:27, Punishment on Israel’s land and its inhabitants

Ezekiel 8:1 – 10:22, Ezekiel’s Second Vision: Yahweh’s glory Abandon’s Jerusalem

Ezekiel 11:1-25, The Conclusion of Ezekiel’s second vision

Ezekiel 12:1 – 14:11, True and False Prophecy: Challenges to Ezekiel’s Ministry

Ezekiel 14:12 – 15:8, Jerusalem is Doomed! Test case and Metaphor

**Notes:**

**Read: Ezekiel 4:1 – 5:17, “This is a sign for the House of Israel”**

Notice who Ezekiel is speaking to/about and who his audience is.

What are the signs:

1. Ezekiel builds a replica of Jerusalem
2. He lays on his left side for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days
3. He lays on his right side for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days

What is this supposed to convey to the people?

Approximately 390 years that Solomon’s temple stood (signifies the Hebrew Monarchy)

40 years is elsewhere understood as “one generation”.

390 days + 40 days = 430 days

**Exodus 12:40-41**  40 ¶ The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years. 41 At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Could this signal a “new exodus”?

“This section forces readers to grapple with profound biblical anthropomorphism: God like human beings, possesses a full range of emotions. The extremes of those emotions are not love and mercy at one end of the spectrum, the dispassionate administration of justice at the other. The God of Ezekiel 4:1-5:17 can become angry, express wrath, and act out of jealousy in response to mortal sins.” (NIB, 1155)

**Read: Ezekiel 6:1 – 7:27, Punishment on Israel’s land and its inhabitants**

High Places were a source of cultic activity including animal sacrifices & fertility festivals. Originally the high places were built and dedicated to Yahweh but they became very susceptible to misuse.

* God attacks the land that holds the High Places

“Ezekiel’s recurring use of the recognition formula (“then they shall know that I am Yahweh”) within and the end of judgment oracles reflects his conviction that Israel lacks such knowledge and finally must be forced to it.” (NIB, 1169)

* There are different levels of “knowing” – Do we know the Lord?

**Read: Ezekiel 8:1 – 10:22, Ezekiel’s Second Vision: Yahweh’s glory Abandon’s Jerusalem**

God picks Zek up by the hair and carries him to Jerusalem. Notice what God is trying to show Ezekiel.

How bad have things gotten?

In chapter 9 the mark on a forehead spares the individual from mass execution.

* The Mark is an X – the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet.
* God intends to preserve the lives of the Jerusalemites who grieve Israel’s sinfulness.

**Ezekiel 11:1-25, The Conclusion of Ezekiel’s second vision**

God issues his judgment that foreigners will bring God’s judgment bringers. Who could this be?

Pelatiah dies. Pelatiah means ‘Yahweh rescues a remnant’. What could this mean about their future?

Notice in v15 how the people have twisted their situation. Does this ever happen today?

**Read: Ezekiel 12:1 – 14:11, True and False Prophecy: Challenges to Ezekiel’s Ministry**

In Ch. 12 Ezekiel must do two signs – this is followed by two speeches each of which challenges what others are saying about Ezekiel.

What are the two signs? What do they indicate? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As you read – do you get the sense that some time has passed? Speculation seems to have arisen regarding whether Ezekiel’s visions/signs would ever come to fruition. What is Ezekiel’s/God’s response?

What is the message of the false prophets?

How would you know if an authentic prophet were here?

**Read: Ezekiel 14:12 – 15:8, Jerusalem is Doomed! Test case and Metaphor**

Do the nations stand beneath God’s judgment? (if foreign countries don’t worship God are they still responsible to God? Why or why not?)

What might Divine Justice look like in our world today?