

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Ezekiel Learns of Jerusalem's Destruction (January 19, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 33:21–33

Ezekiel Unable to Speak Prior to Learning of Jerusalem's Fall

21 And then it was in the twelfth year, in the tenth *month*, on the fifth *day* of the month of our exile, a survivor from Jerusalem came to me, saying, "The city was destroyed!"

22 And the hand of Yahweh was on me on the evening before the coming of the survivor, and he opened my mouth before the survivor came to me in the morning, and my mouth was opened, and I was no longer dumb.

Those Left in Judah Were Making Claims on the Land

23 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

24 "Son of man, the inhabitants of these ruins on the soil of Israel *are* saying, 'Abraham was one *man*, and he took possession of the land, and we *are* many; the land has been given for us as *a* possession.'

Yahweh Declares Their Claims to be Morally and Religiously Bankrupt

25 Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "You eat blood *in your meat*, and you raise your eyes to your idols and you pour out blood, and *yet* you want to take possession of the land?"

26 You rely on your sword, you do a detestable thing, and each man defiles the wife of his neighbor, and *yet* you want to take possession of the land?"

27 "Thus you must say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "As I live, surely whoever *is* in the ruins, by the sword they will fall, and whoever *is* on the surface of the open field, I will give him to the animals to eat him, and whoever *is* in the stronghold and in the cave, they will die by the plague.

28 And I will make the land *a* desolation and *a* wasteland, and the pride of its strength will come to an end, and the mountains of Israel will be desolate with no one traveling through them."

29 And they will know that I *am* Yahweh when I make my land *a* desolation and *a* wasteland, because of all of their detestable things that they have done.

God's Message to Ezekiel about the Exiles

30 "And you, son of man, your people, the ones talking together concerning you beside the walls and in the doorways of the houses, each one with his brother saying, 'Please come and hear what *is* the word that is going out from Yahweh.'

31 And they come to you as people do, and they sit before you, and my people hear your words, and they do not do them, for they *are* showing passion in their mouth, but their heart *is* going after ill-gotten gain.

32 Now, look! You *are* to them like a sensual song, beautiful of voice and played well on an instrument, and they hear your words, but they are not doing them.

33 So when it comes, look! It is coming! And *then* they will know that a prophet was in the midst of them."

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Salvation of Yahweh's Flock (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 34

Condemnation of the Shepherds

1 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and you must say to them, to the shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Woe *to* the shepherds of Israel who were feeding themselves! Must not the shepherds feed the flock?"

3 The fat you eat, and you clothe *yourself with* the wool; the well-nourished *animals* you slaughter, *but* you do not feed the flock.

4 The weak you *have* not strengthened, and the sick you *have* not healed, and with respect to the hurt you have not bound *them up*, and you *have* not brought back the scattered, and you *have* not sought the lost, but *rather* you ruled over them with force and with ruthlessness.

5 And they were scattered without a shepherd, and they were as food for all the animals of the field *when* they were scattered.

6 My flock went astray upon all of the mountains and on every high hill, and *so* upon all the surface of the world my flock were scattered, and there was no one seeking them, and there was no one searching for them."

7 Therefore, hear, *O* shepherds, the word of Yahweh:

8 "As I live," declares the Lord Yahweh, "Surely because my flock have become as plunder, and my flock became as food to all the animals of the field, since there was not a shepherd, *since* my shepherds *have* not sought my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and they fed not my flock,"

9 therefore, *O* shepherds, hear the word of Yahweh,

10 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Look! I *am* against the shepherds, and I will seek my flock from their hand, and I will put an end to them from shepherding flocks, and the shepherds will no longer feed themselves, and I will deliver my flocks from their mouth, so that they will not be as food for them."

The Good Shepherd

11 “For thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I, even I, will seek my flock, and I will look after them,

12 *just like the caring of a shepherd for his herd on the day when he is in the midst of his scattered flock. Thus I will look after my flock, and I will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on the day of storm and stress.*

13 And I will bring them out from the peoples, and I will gather them from the countries, and I will bring them to their soil, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and in all of the settlements of the land.

14 I will feed them in good pasture, and their pasture will be on the mountains of the heights of Israel; there they will lie down in good pasture, and *on lush pasture they will feed on the mountains of Israel.*

15 I myself will feed my flock and I myself will allow them to lie down,” declares the Lord Yahweh.

16 “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the scattered, and I will bind *up* the one hurt, and I will strengthen the sick; and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed her with justice.”

Judgment Among the Flock

17 “And you, my flock, thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* judging between one sheep and another, between the rams and between the he-goats.

18 Is it not enough for you *that* you feed on the good pasture? And *still* you must trample the remainder of your pasture with your feet, and clear water you drink, and the leftover water you must make muddy with your feet.

19 And my flock must graze the *pasture* treaded upon by your feet, and must drink the mud puddle *stirred up* by your feet.”

20 “Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh to them: “Look! I, even I will judge between fat sheep and between lean sheep,

21 because with *your* flank and with *your* shoulder you shoved, and with your horns you pushed all of the sick *animals* until you scattered it to the outside.

22 And so I will save my flock, and they will no longer be for plunder, and I will judge between one sheep and another.

The Messianic Shepherd

23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, and he will feed them; *that is*, my servant David. He will feed them, and he will be for them as a shepherd. [cf. [John 10:11–16](#)]

24 And I, Yahweh, I will be for them as God, and my servant David *will be* a leader in the midst of them. I, Yahweh, I have spoken.

The Covenant of Peace

25 And I will make them a covenant of peace, and I will put an end to wild animals from the land, and they will dwell in the desert safely, and they will sleep in the forest.

26 And I will make them and *the area* all around my hill a blessing, and I will let the rain go down at its appointed time; they will be rains of blessing.

27 And the tree of the field will give its fruit, and the land will give its produce, and they will be on their land safely, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh when I break their yoke, and I will deliver them from the hand of the ones enslaving them.

28 And they will not be *any* longer plunder to the nations, and the animals of the land will not eat them, and they will dwell in safety, and *there will not be anyone* frightening them.

29 And I will raise for them a garden plot of renown, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land, and they will not bear any more the insult of the nations.

30 And they will know that I, Yahweh their God, *am* with them and they *are* my people, the house of Israel,” declares the Lord Yahweh,

31 “and you *are* my flock, the flock of my pasture. You *are* my people; I *am* your God,” declares the Lord Yahweh.”

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Oracle against Edom (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 35:1–36:15

God Denounces Edom’s Treachery

35:1 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

2 “Son of man, set your face against the mountain of Seir and prophesy against it,

3 and you must say to it, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I am against you, mountain of Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you, and I will make you *a* desolation and *a* wasteland.

4 Your cities I will make ruins, and you will be *a* desolation, and *then* you will know that I *am* Yahweh,

5 because there *has been* to you an ancient hostility, and you handed over the Israelites to *the* power of *the* sword at the time of their disaster, at the time of their final punishment.

6 Therefore as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “Certainly to blood *guilt* I will prepare you and blood will pursue; since you did not hate blood, it will pursue you.

7 And I will make the mountain of Seir into *a* desolation and ruin, and I will cut off from it *both he who is crossing over and he who is returning.*

8 And I will fill its mountains *with* its slain; your hills and your valleys and all of your watercourses, the slain by *the* sword will fall in them.

9 An everlasting desolation I will make you, and your cities will not return, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh.

10 *I do this* because of your saying, ‘The two nations and the two lands, they will be mine, and we will take possession of it,’ and yet Yahweh was there.

11 Therefore, as I live,” declares the Lord Yahweh, “so I will deal *with you* according to your anger and according to your jealousy that you did, because of your hatred against them, and I will make myself known among them when I judge you.

12 And you will know that I, Yahweh, I have heard all of your contemptible words that you said against the mountains of Israel, saying, ‘They will be desolate; they are given to us as food.’

13 And you magnified yourself against me with your insolent speech, and you spoke voluminously against me *with* your words—I heard!

14 Thus the Lord Yahweh says, ‘As the whole world rejoices, I will make you *a* desolation.

15 Like your rejoicing over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, I will do to you; you will be *a* desolation, mountain of Seir and all of Edom, indeed all of it; and they will know that I *am* Yahweh.’”

The Enemies of the Mountains of Israel

36:1 “And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel; and so you must say, ‘Mountains of Israel, hear the word of Yahweh;

2 thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Because the enemy said concerning you, ‘Ah, and *the* ancient high places will be to us as a possession!’”

3 Therefore prophesy, and you must say, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Because indeed when you were desolate, then they crushed you from all around, so that you became a possession to the remainder of the nations, and you became a byword and object of slander for the people.”

4 Therefore, mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord Yahweh; thus says the Lord Yahweh to the mountains and to the hills, to the river channels and to the valleys and to the ruins that *are* desolate and to the cities that *are* abandoned *and* that have become as plunder and as scorn for the remainder of the nations that *are* from all around.

5 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Certainly in the fire of my passion I spoke against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who made my land as *a* possession, because of its pastureland for plunder, for themselves in all of *the* joy of their whole heart *and* in *their* inner disdain.”

6 Therefore prophesy against the land of Israel, and you must say to the mountains and to the hills, to the river channels and to the valleys, thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I spoke in my passion and in my anger *the* insult of *the* peoples you have endured.”

7 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: “I swear certainly *that* the nations that are all around you, they indeed will endure their disgrace.

The Blessing of the Mountains of Israel

8 “ “But you, mountains of Israel, your branch you will shoot, and your fruit you will carry for my people Israel, for they *are* soon to come.

9 For look! I *am* for you, and I will turn you, and you will be tilled, and you will be planted.

10 And I will cause your population to increase for you, all of the house of Israel, all of it, and the towns will be inhabited, and the ruins will be built.

11 And I will cause your population to increase for you, and domestic animals, *even* they will be numerous, and they will be fruitful, and I will cause you to be inhabited like your ancient times, and I will do good *things* more than *in* your former times, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh.

12 And I will send over you my people Israel, and they will take possession of you, and you will be for them as an inheritance, and you will no longer bereave them of their children.”

13 “ ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh, because *they are* saying to you, “You *are an* eater of humans, and you are one who makes childless your people.”

14 Therefore humans you will not eat *any* longer, and your nation you will not make childless *any* longer,” declares the Lord Yahweh.

15 “And I will not let you hear *any* longer the insult of the nations, and *the* disgrace of *the* peoples you will not bear *any* longer; you *yourself* will not cause your nation to stumble,” declares the Lord Yahweh.”

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Restoration of Yahweh’s Honor (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 36:16–38

Historical Retrospect—Israel Profaned Yahweh’s Name

16 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

17 “Son of man, the house of Israel, *they* were dwelling on their soil, and they defiled it with their way and with their deeds; like the uncleanness of menstruation was their way before me.

18 And I poured out my rage on them for the blood that they poured on the land and for their idols *with which* they defiled it.
 19 And I scattered them among the nations, and I dispersed *them* in the countries according to their way, and according to their deeds I judged them.
 20 And they came into the nations to which they went, and they profaned my holy name when they said to them, ‘These *are* the people of Yahweh, and from his land they went out.’
 21 And I was concerned for my holy name, which, the house of Israel defiled among the nations to which they went.

Yahweh Will Vindicate His Name

22 “Therefore thus say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Not for your sake *am* I about to act, house of Israel, but for my holy name, which you defiled among the nations to which you went.
 23 And I will consecrate my great name, which *was* profaned among the nations *and* which you have profaned in the midst of them, and the nations will know that I *am* Yahweh!” ‘ a declaration of the Lord Yahweh, when I show myself holy before their eyes.
 24 “ ‘And I will take you from the nations, and I will gather you from all of the lands, and I will bring you to your land.
 25 And I will sprinkle on you pure water, and you will be clean from all of your uncleanness, and I will cleanse you from all of your idols.
 26 And I will give a new heart to you, and a new spirit I will give into your inner parts, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and I will give to you a heart of flesh. [cf. [Jer 31:31-34](#); [Ps 51:7-10](#); [John 3:3-10](#)]
 27 And I will give my spirit into your inner parts, [cf. [Joel 2:28-29](#); [Acts 2:1-18](#)] and I will make *it* so that you will go in my rules, and my regulations you will remember, and you will do *them*.
 28 And you will dwell in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you will be to me *as* a people, and I will be to you as God.
 29 And I will save you from all of your uncleanness, and I will call to the grain, and I will cause it to increase, and I will not bring famine upon you.
 30 And I will cause the fruit of the tree and the crop of the field to increase, so that you will not suffer again *the* disgrace of famine among the nations.
 31 And you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that *were* not good, and you will loathe yourself over your iniquities and over your detestable things.
 32 *But* not for your sake *am* I acting,” declares the Lord Yahweh. “Let it be known to you, be ashamed, and be put to shame because of your ways, house of Israel.

The Nations Will Honor Yahweh after He Restores Israel

33 “Thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘On the day when I cleanse you from all of your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the ruins will be rebuilt.
 34 And the land that was desolate will be cultivated in the very place that it was desolate before *the* eyes of all of *the* persons crossing over.
 35 And they will say, “This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden, and the wasted and desolate and destroyed cities, *now* being refortified, are inhabited.”
 36 And the nations who are left all around, you will know that I, Yahweh, I built that which was destroyed; I planted the desolate *land*; I, Yahweh, I have spoken, and I will act.’
 37 “Thus says the Lord Yahweh: ‘Again this *time* I will let myself be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do *something* for them; I will cause them to increase their population like a flock.
 38 Like *the* flock of *the* sanctuary, like the flock of Jerusalem at its festival, so the desolate cities will be filled with flocks of people; and they will know that I *am* Yahweh.”’

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—The Valley of Dry Bones (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 37:1–14

1 The hand of Yahweh was upon me, and he brought me by the Spirit of Yahweh, and he let me rest in the midst of the valley, and it *was* full of bones.
 2 And he led me all around over them, and look, very many on the surface of the valley, and look, very dry.
 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I said, “Lord Yahweh, you know.”
 4 And he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and you must say to them, *to* the dry bones, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh!
 5 Thus says the Lord Yahweh to these bones: “Look! I *am* bringing into you breath, and you will live!
 6 And I will lay on you sinews, and I will let flesh come upon you, and I will cover you over *with* skin, and I will put breath into you, and you will live, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh.” ’”
 7 And I prophesied just as I had been commanded, and *there* was a sound at my prophesying, and look! A rattling, and they came together—*the* bones! Bone to its bone!
 8 And I looked, and indeed, sinews *were* on them, and flesh went up, and skin covered over them upward, but breath *was* not in them.

9 And he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and you must say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh from the four winds, “Come, O spirit and breath, on these dead ones, so that they may live!” ’”

10 And I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they became alive, and they stood on their feet, a very, very large group.

11 And he said to me, “Son of man, these bones *are* all of the house of Israel; look! *they are* saying, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is destroyed; we are cut off as far as we are concerned.’

12 Therefore prophesy, and you must say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* opening your graves, and I will bring you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to the land of Israel!

13 And you will know that I *am* Yahweh when I open your graves when I bring you up from your graves, my people!

14 And I will put my breath into you so that you may live, and I will cause you to rest on your soil, and you will know that I, Yahweh, I have spoken, and I will act!” ‘ declares Yahweh.”

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—The Two Branches (January 19–March 14, 586 BC)

Ezekiel 37:15–28

15 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

16 “And you, son of man, take for yourself a piece of wood, and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the Israelites his associates,’ and take another *piece of wood*, and write on it, ‘For Joseph, *the piece of wood* of Ephraim and all of the house of Israel his associates.’

17 And join them one to *the* other with respect to you *as one piece of wood*, so that they may become one in your hand.

18 When your people say to you, saying, ‘Will you not inform us *as to* what these *actions* mean for you?’

19 *Then* speak to them, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* taking *the piece of wood* for Joseph that *is* in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel its associates, and I will put them on it, *the piece of wood* of Judah, and I will make them into one *piece of wood*, so that they be one in my hand.”

20 And the *pieces of wood* on which you wrote will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 And speak to them, ‘Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* taking the Israelites from among the nations to which they went, and I will gather them from everywhere, and I will bring them to their *own* soil.

22 And I will make them into one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel, and they will all have one king as their king, and they will not again be two nations and will not again divide into two kingdoms again.

23 And they will not defile themselves again with their idols and with vile idols and with all of their transgressions, and I will save them from all of their apostasy by which they sinned, and I will cleanse them and they will be for me as a people and I, I will be for them as God.

24 “ “And my servant David *will be* king over them, and one shepherd will be for all of them, and in my regulations they will go, and my statutes they will observe, and they will do them.

25 And they will dwell on the land that I gave to my servant, to Jacob, in which your ancestors dwelled, and they will dwell on it, they and their children and the children of their children forever, and my servant David *will be* a leader for them forever.

26 And I will make with them a covenant of peace; an everlasting covenant it will be with them. And I will establish them, and I will cause them to increase, and I will put my sanctuary in the midst of them forever.

27 And my tabernacle will be with them, and I will be for them as God, and they will be to me as a nation.

28 And the nations will know that I, Yahweh, *am* consecrating Israel when my sanctuary *is* in the midst of them forever.” ’”

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