

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 In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month, on the fifth of the month, a refugee came to me from Jerusalem saying, "The city has been defeated!"

22 Now the hand of the LORD had been on me the evening before the refugee reached me, but the LORD opened my mouth by the time the refugee arrived in the morning; he opened my mouth and I was no longer unable to speak.

Those Left in Judah Were Making Claims on the Land

23 The word of the LORD came to me:

24 "Son of man, the ones living in these ruins in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was only one man, yet he possessed the land, but we are many; surely the land has been given to us for a possession.'

Yahweh Declares Their Claims to be Morally and Religiously Bankrupt

25 Therefore say to them, 'This is what the sovereign LORD says: You eat the meat with the blood still in it, pray to your idols, and shed blood. Do you really think you will possess the land?'

26 You rely on your swords and commit abominable deeds; each of you defiles his neighbor's wife. Will you possess the land?'

27 "This is what you must say to them, 'This is what the sovereign LORD says: As surely as I live, those living in the ruins will die by the sword, those in the open field I will give to the wild beasts for food, and those who are in the strongholds and caves will die of disease.'

28 I will turn the land into a desolate ruin; her confident pride will come to an end. The mountains of Israel will be so desolate no one will pass through them.

29 Then they will know that I am the LORD when I turn the land into a desolate ruin because of all the abominable deeds they have committed.'

God's Message to Ezekiel about the Exiles

30 "But as for you, son of man, your people (who are talking about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses) say to one another, 'Come hear the word that comes from the LORD.'

31 They come to you in crowds, and they sit in front of you as my people. They hear your words, but do not obey them. For they talk lustfully, and their heart is set on their own advantage.

32 Realize that to them you are like a sensual song, a beautiful voice and skilled musician. They hear your words, but they do not obey them.

33 When all this comes true—and it certainly will—then they will know that a prophet was among 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 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: 'This is what the sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not shepherds feed the flock?'

3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the choice animals, but you do not feed the sheep!

4 You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bandaged the injured, brought back the strays, or sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled over them.

5 They were scattered because they had no shepherd, and they became food for every wild beast.

6 My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over the entire face of the earth with no one looking or searching for them.

7 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

8 As surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, my sheep have become prey and have become food for all the wild beasts. There was no shepherd, and my shepherds did not search for my flock, but fed themselves and did not feed my sheep,

9 Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

10 This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand my sheep from their hand. I will no longer let them be shepherds; the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore. I will rescue my sheep from their mouth, so that they will no longer be food for them.

The Good Shepherd

11 "For this is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out.

12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the

places where they have been scattered on a cloudy, dark day.

13 I will bring them out from among the peoples and gather them from foreign countries; I will bring them to their own land. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams and all the inhabited places of the land.

14 In a good pasture I will feed them; the mountain heights of Israel will be their pasture. There they will lie down in a lush pasture, and they will feed on rich grass on the mountains of Israel.

15 I myself will feed my sheep and I myself will make them lie down, declares the sovereign LORD.

16 I will seek the lost and bring back the strays; I will bandage the injured and strengthen the sick, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them—with judgment!

Judgment Among the Flock

17 “As for you, my sheep, this is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am about to judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must trample the rest of your pastures with your feet? When you drink clean water, must you muddy the rest of the water by trampling it with your feet?

19 As for my sheep, they must eat what you trampled with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet!

20 “Therefore, this is what the sovereign LORD says to them: Look, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

21 Because you push with your side and your shoulder, and thrust your horns at all the weak sheep until you scatter them abroad,

22 I will save my sheep; they will no longer be prey. I will judge between one sheep and another.

The Messianic Shepherd

23 I will set one shepherd over them, and he will feed them—namely, my servant David. He will feed them and will be their shepherd. [cf. [John 10:11–16](#)]

24 I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken!

The Covenant of Peace

25 “I will make a covenant of peace with them and will rid the land of wild beasts, so that they can live securely in the wilderness and even sleep in the woods.

26 I will turn them and the regions around my hill into a blessing. I will make showers come down in their season; they will be showers that bring blessing.

27 The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the earth will yield its crops. They will live securely on their land; they will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

28 They will no longer be prey for the nations and the wild beasts will not devour them. They will live securely and no one will make them afraid.

29 I will prepare for them a healthy planting. They will no longer be victims of famine in the land and will no longer bear the insults of the nations.

30 Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they are my people, the house of Israel, declares the sovereign LORD.

31 And you, my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are my people, and I am your God, declares the sovereign LORD.”

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 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Son of man, turn toward Mount Seir, and prophesy against it.

3 Say to it, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says:

“Look, I am against you, Mount Seir;
I will stretch out my hand against you
and turn you into a desolate ruin.

4 I will lay waste your cities;
and you will become desolate.
Then you will know that I am the LORD!

5 “You have shown unrelenting hostility and poured the people of Israel onto the blades of a sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of their final punishment.

6 Therefore, as surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, I will subject you to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.

7 I will turn Mount Seir into a desolate ruin; I will cut off from it the one who passes through or returns.
 8 I will fill its mountains with its dead; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines, those killed by the sword will fall.
 9 I will turn you into a perpetual desolation, and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
 10 “You said, “These two nations, these two lands will be mine, and we will possess them,”—although the LORD was there—
 11 therefore, as surely as I live, declares the sovereign LORD, I will deal with you according to your anger, and according to your envy, by which you acted spitefully against them. I will reveal myself to them when I judge you.
 12 Then you will know that I, the LORD, have heard all the insults you spoke against the mountains of Israel, saying, “They are desolate, they have been given to us for food.”
 13 You exalted yourselves against me with your speech and hurled many insults against me—I have heard them all!
 14 This is what the sovereign LORD says: While the whole earth rejoices, I will turn you into a desolation.
 15 As you rejoiced over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate, so will I deal with you—you will be desolate, Mount Seir, and all of Edom—all of it! Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

The Enemies of the Mountains of Israel

36:1 “As for you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say: ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD!
 2 This is what the sovereign LORD says: The enemy has spoken against you, saying “Aha!” and, “The ancient heights have become our property!”’
 3 So prophesy and say: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Surely because they have made you desolate and crushed you from all directions, so that you have become the property of the rest of the nations, and have become the subject of gossip and slander among the people,
 4 therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the sovereign LORD: This is what the sovereign LORD says to the mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, and to the desolate ruins and the abandoned cities that have become prey and an object of derision to the rest of the nations round about—
 5 therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says: Surely I have spoken in the fire of my zeal against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who with great joy and utter contempt have made my land their property and prey, because of its pasture.’
 6 “Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains and hills, the ravines and valleys, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I have spoken in my zeal and in my anger, because you have endured the insults of the nations.
 7 So this is what the sovereign LORD says: I vow that the nations around you will endure insults as well.

The Blessing of the Mountains of Israel

8 “But you, mountains of Israel, will grow your branches, and bear your fruit for my people Israel; for they will arrive soon.
 9 For indeed, I am on your side; I will turn to you, and you will be plowed and planted.
 10 I will multiply your people—the whole house of Israel, all of it. The cities will be populated and the ruins rebuilt.
 11 I will increase the number of people and animals on you; they will increase and be fruitful. I will cause you to be inhabited as in ancient times, and will do more good for you than at the beginning of your history. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
 12 I will lead people, my people Israel, across you; they will possess you and you will become their inheritance. No longer will you bereave them of their children.
 13 “This is what the sovereign LORD says: Because they are saying to you, “You are a devourer of men, and bereave your nation of children,”
 14 therefore you will no longer devour people and no longer bereave your nation of children, declares the sovereign LORD.
 15 I will no longer subject you to the nations’ insults; no longer will you bear the shame of the peoples, and no longer will you bereave your nation, declares the sovereign LORD.”

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 The word of the LORD came to me:
 17 “Son of man, when the house of Israel was living on their own land, they defiled it by their behavior and their deeds. In my sight their behavior was like the uncleanness of a woman having her monthly period.
 18 So I poured my anger on them because of the blood they shed on the land and because of the idols with which they defiled it.
 19 I scattered them among the nations; they were dispersed throughout foreign countries. In accordance with their behavior and their deeds I judged them.
 20 But when they arrived in the nations where they went, they profaned my holy name. It was said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD, yet they have departed from his land.’
 21 I was concerned for my holy reputation which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they went.

Yahweh Will Vindicate His Name

22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake that I am about to act, O house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy reputation which you profaned among the nations where you went.

23 I will magnify my great name that has been profaned among the nations, that you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the sovereign LORD, when I magnify myself among you in their sight.

24 “‘I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries; then I will bring you to your land.

25 I will sprinkle you with pure water and you will be clean from all your impurities. I will purify you from all your idols.

26 I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. [cf. [Jer 31:31–34](#); [Ps 51:7–10](#); [John 3:3–10](#)]

27 I will put my Spirit within you; [cf. [Joel 2:28–29](#); [Acts 2:1–18](#)] I will take the initiative and you will obey my statutes and carefully observe my regulations.

28 Then you will live in the land I gave to your fathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it; I will not bring a famine on you.

30 I will multiply the fruit of the trees and the produce of the fields, so that you will never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

31 Then you will remember your evil behavior and your deeds which were not good; you will loathe yourselves on account of your sins and your abominable deeds.

32 Understand that it is not for your sake I am about to act, declares the sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and embarrassed by your behavior, O house of Israel.

The Nations Will Honor Yahweh after He Restores Israel

33 “‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: In the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will populate the cities and the ruins will be rebuilt.

34 The desolate land will be plowed, instead of being desolate in the sight of everyone who passes by.

35 They will say, “This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; the ruined, desolate, and destroyed cities are now fortified and inhabited.”

36 Then the nations which remain around you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruins and replanted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken—and I will do it!’

37 “‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: I will allow the house of Israel to ask me to do this for them: I will multiply their people like sheep.

38 Like the sheep for offerings, like the sheep of Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

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 the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and placed me in the midst of the valley, and it was full of bones.

2 He made me walk all around among them. I realized there were a great many bones in the valley and they were very dry.

3 He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said to him, “Sovereign Lord, you know.”

4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and tell them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 This is what the sovereign LORD says to these bones: Look, I am about to infuse breath into you and you will live.

6 I will put tendons on you and muscles over you and will cover you with skin; I will put breath in you and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. There was a sound when I prophesied—I heard a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

8 As I watched, I saw tendons on them, then muscles appeared, and skin covered over them from above, but there was no breath in them.

9 He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath—prophecy, son of man—and say to the breath: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these corpses so that they may live.’”

10 So I prophesied as I was commanded, and the breath came into them; they lived and stood on their feet, an extremely great army.

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are all the house of Israel. Look, they are saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope has perished; we are cut off.’

12 Therefore prophecy, and tell them, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am about to open your graves and will raise you from your graves, my people. I will bring you to the land of Israel.

13 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people.

14 I will place my breath in you and you will live; I will give you rest in your own land. Then you will know that I am the LORD—I have spoken and I will act, declares the LORD.”

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

Ezekiel 37:15–28

15 The word of the LORD came to me:

16 “As for you, son of man, take one branch, and write on it, ‘For Judah, and for the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another branch and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the branch of Ephraim and all the house of Israel associated with him.’

17 Join them as one stick; they will be as one in your hand.

18 When your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what these things mean?’

19 tell them, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am about to take the branch of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel associated with him, and I will place them on the stick of Judah, and make them into one stick—they will be one in my hand.’

20 The sticks you write on will be in your hand in front of them.

21 Then tell them, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am about to take the Israelites from among the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from round about and bring them to their land.

22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over them all. They will never again be two nations and never again be divided into two kingdoms.

23 They will not defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, and all their rebellious deeds. I will save them from all their unfaithfulness by which they sinned. I will purify them; they will become my people and I will become their God.

24 “‘My servant David will be king over them; there will be one shepherd for all of them. They will follow my regulations and carefully observe my statutes.

25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; they will live in it—they and their children and their grandchildren forever. David my servant will be prince over them forever.

26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be a perpetual covenant with them. I will establish them, increase their numbers, and place my sanctuary among them forever.

27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

28 Then, when my sanctuary is among them forever, the nations will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel.’”

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