



Class 12 - Ezekiel, Daniel

Old Testament Seminar - Immanuel Church

Ezekiel

- Jewish exiles go off to Babylon in 605, 597, and 586 BC.
- The covenant people are engaged in gross idolatry.
- The covenant curses have now come upon them.
- God promises restoration for sinful people

Theme

The old covenant has failed; not because it itself was defunct, but because the people were not able to keep it due to their sinful hearts. Therefore a new covenant is needed which will involve new hearts for the people of God.

I. Biographical Sketch and Structure of the Book

- a. Exile in Babylon, written likely from ca. 593 to 571 B.C., and trained as a priest
- b. Two halves
 1. Chapters 1 through 24: Judgment of God's people
 2. Chapters 25 through 48: Condemnation of the nations, and restoration of God's people
- c. Three visions

II. A Vision of God the King (Ch. 1-3)

- a. God is not like us

- b. God is all-powerful and all-wise
- c. God is not limited by circumstances
- d. God takes the initiative
- e. God communicates

III. A Vision of God's Departure (Ch. 8-11)

- a. Prophecies against Israel because of their sin
- b. Idolatry and spiritual unfaithfulness
- c. God is faithful to his promise to judge sin

IV. A Vision of God's Coming and the Promise of Paradise (Ch. 40-48)

- a. A new temple
- b. Return to the land
- c. Restored relationship with God
- d. Foreshadowing of Christ and his work, and the reason God offers hope for a sinful people

Outline w/ Pivotal Texts

- i. Ezekiel 1-32 – Judgment/Removal: Against Judah and the rest of the nations
 - a. 1:1-3:15 – The call and sending of Ezekiel
 - b. 3:16-7:27 – Announcement against Jerusalem (imminent judgment)
 - c. Ch. 8-11 – Visions of idolatry and the flight of the glory of Yahweh
 - d. Ch. 12-19 – Idolatry and the Lord Yahweh
 - e. Ch. 20-23 – Judgment coming closer and closer (warnings intensify)
 - f. Ch. 24 – The beginning of the siege of Jerusalem
 - g. Ch. 25-32 – Seven oracles against seven cities/nations
- ii. Ezekiel 33-48 – Grace/Restoration: A vision of the future
 - a. Ch. 33-37 – Three symbols of restoration announced immediately after the fall

- i. The Good Shepherd
- ii. Dry Bones Resurrected
- iii. Two Rods
- b. Ch. 38-39 – The final battle (Gog and Magog typological; used in Revelation too)
- c. Ch. 40-48 – Vision of the coming kingdom of God: the glory of Yahweh returns, New Temple, New Jerusalem, New Heavens, New Earth

Daniel

Context

Historical Context

- Book of Daniel spans the length of the entire Babylonian exile
- Daniel taken captive to Babylon in ca. 605 BC
- Daniel lives through entire exile
- Babylonians later conquered by the Medes & Persians
- Chronology of the historical narrative: ch. 1-4, 7, 8, 5, 9, 6

Redemptive-Historical Context

- The people of God captured by the Gentiles
- The people of God persecuted and afflicted by the Gentiles
- Who sovereignly rules the earth?

Theme

The Most High, the God of Daniel, sovereignly rules and reigns supreme over all mankind. Therefore His people are brave in the face of persecution.

God is God over all peoples of the earth, not just the Jews.

God has humbled even the great king Nebuchadnezzar, conqueror of Judah.

The Most High Rules; All Other Are Humbled – Daniel 4, 5

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a tree
- Belshazzar's vision of writing on the wall

The Persecuted People of God Are Brave – Daniel 3, 6

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace
- Daniel in the lion's den

The Kingdom of Christ – Daniel 2, 7-8

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large statue crushed by a rock
- Daniel's dream of four beasts and the Ancient of Days

Exile and Return – Daniel 1, 9

- Daniel and his friend stay faithful during the exile
- Yahweh is faithful to bring His people back from exile
- The true return from exile is accomplished by Christ alone

The Future of the People of God – Daniel 10-12

A Study Outline for Daniel

Chapter 1-9 – God alone is sovereign; His people are afflicted by pseudo-sovereigns

- i. Ch. 1 – Exile; People of God afflicted
 - i. Ch. 2 – Four empires brought low by God's king (type in history)
 - i. Ch. 3 – King sets himself up as god; People of God afflicted
 - a. Ch. 4 – Nebuchadnezzar brought low

- b. Ch. 5 – Belshazzar brought low
 - ii. Ch. 6 – King sets himself up as god; People of God afflicted
 - ii. Ch. 7 – Four empires brought low by God’s king (eschatological)
 - iii. Ch. 8 – Four empires brought low
 - ii. Ch. 9 – Return from exile; Messiah afflicted

Chapter 10-12 – Visions of the future

This material is adapted from a course with the same name developed by Capitol Hill Baptist Church. It has been modified for our purposes and has been condensed to fit our time schedule. The original version is available on their website at <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/old-testament-overview/>