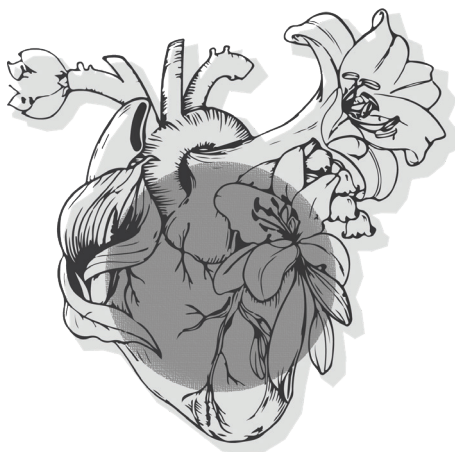


ezekiel

A DEVOTIONAL



WELCOME!

It is our hope that this devotional will help you personally engage with God through his word so that you may better understand the gospel, know the Bible, and grow in your relationship with him.

STRUCTURE

You can't build a house without first framing it. Think of these structures as the 2x4s that make up the framework for our spiritual devotion. The book of Ezekiel is one of the longest in the Bible; we'll chip away at it with the following practices:

1. Memorize Scripture.

One of the habits we will form in our time of spiritual devotion is to review a Scripture passage and work at committing it to memory. Below are two passages to get you started. Once you memorize these, pick a passage from the reading plan that is particularly meaningful to what God is revealing to you in the Bible, and continue to store up his word in your mind and heart.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2. Devote ourselves daily to God.

We will tend our spiritual fire by taking time to read Scripture daily and pray daily. Each day, we will:

1. Read a Scripture passage.
2. Write our reflections on the passage.
 - a. Write down your **observations** from the passage: key words, repetitions, characters, setting, etc.
 - b. What **themes** did you notice in the passage?
 - c. What did you **learn about God** in this passage?
 - d. What did you **learn about people or humankind** in this passage?
 - e. How does this passage **demonstrate God's unfolding purposes throughout time** based on the other passages you have read this week?
3. Memorize and review your memory passages.
4. Pray:
 - a. What do I need to confess?
 - b. What is Jesus' prayer request for me?¹
 - c. What do I need to thank God for?
 - d. What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members?
 - e. What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?²

We've built these practices into the devotional, so grab a Bible and follow along!

1 If Jesus were sitting right next to you, what would he pray for you? What do you spiritually, emotionally, or physically need for you to become more like Christ and more like who God created you to be?

2 "Enemy" might seem like a strong word. You might balk at that. But we all likely can call to mind someone we don't like, are in conflict with, or even hate, whether or not we personally know them. That's your enemy.

RHYTHMS

Spiritual devotion does not happen in a vacuum. In addition to structures, growth requires the right environment. Spiritual growth is fostered by relationships and rhythms that work with the grain of how God has created us as human beings, rather than against it. Here are some suggested rhythms to implement to foster your spiritual growth:

1. Schedule a time daily that you will wake up, read, and pray.

Plan ahead to fight encroaching slavery to the flesh. Our spiritual enemy often traps us in our habits, or lack thereof. In order to get up early, you may also need to schedule a time to go to bed. Another tip: plan to read and pray before you look at your phone or consume any other media.³

2. Block off a day each week in your calendar for Sabbath, during which you can plan activities that rejuvenate you.⁴

In Ezekiel 20:12, God says, “Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the Lord made them holy.” God commanded the Israelites to keep a Sabbath day every week, which was a day to rest from their work. The goal of the Sabbath is not to do *nothing*, but to *cease our striving* for security and salvation apart from God. Idolatry is one of the main themes of Ezekiel. The Israelites forsake the covenant with God by relying on foreign gods and alliances to save them. The Sabbath is a way for us to actively fight idolatry and remember that the source of our life is not found in our own blood, sweat, and tears, but is provided for us in the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

3 Earley, Justin Whitmel. “DAILY HABITS.” *The Common Rule*, Justin Whitmel Earley, 2020, www.thecommonrule.org/daily-habits.

4 Earley, Justin Whitmel. “WEEKLY HABITS.” *The Common Rule*, Justin Whitmel Earley, 2020, www.thecommonrule.org/weekly-habits.

3. Each week, aim to have one spiritual conversation with a friend about how you are really doing and what God is teaching you.⁵

This relational piece is an important part of devotion to God. Our faith is not only individual. As we will see throughout the Bible in this devotional, God has always been making for himself not only a nation, but a people. A spiritual army. Engage with the people that God has placed in your life and encourage one another toward spiritual fervor and godliness.

5 Earley, Justin Whitmel. "WEEKLY HABITS." *The Common Rule*, Justin Whitmel Earley, 2020, www.thecommonrule.org/weekly-habits.

reading plan

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Introduction to Ezekiel				
1	Ezekiel 1	Hebrews 1	Ezekiel 2; Deuteronomy 28:1-20, 45-52, 64-68	Ezekiel 3; James 5:19-20	1 Peter 1:1-2; James 1:1
2	Ezekiel 4	Daniel 3:8-30	Isaiah 53:1-6; 1 Peter 2:19-25	Ezekiel 5; John 2:12-25	Ezekiel 6; Revelation 15
3	Ezekiel 7	Numbers 14; Hebrews 3:7-19	2 Peter 3	Ezekiel 8	Colossians 3:1-17; 1 John 5:18-21
4	Ezekiel 9; Romans 11	Ezekiel 10	1 Samuel 4	Psalms 139:1-12	Ephesians 1
5	Ezekiel 11	Genesis 17:1-11; Hebrews 11:8-16	Luke 19:28-44; Acts 1:1-12	Ezekiel 12; 2 Kings 25:1-26	Proverbs 1; 1 John 1:8-2:2
6	Ezekiel 13	Matthew 7:15-29; 1 John 4:1-6	Ezekiel 14	Acts 3	Ezekiel 15; John 15
7	Ezekiel 16	Ezekiel 23	Hosea 1:1-2:23	Exodus 32; Romans 1:18-2:16	Romans 5:1-11; Ephesians 5
8	Ezekiel 17	Ezekiel 18; Jeremiah 31:28-30	Romans 14	Ezekiel 19; 2 Chronicles 36; Daniel 1:1-7	Jeremiah 17:5-13; 1 Corinthians 2
9	Ezekiel 20:1-29	Ezekiel 20:30-49	Exodus 16	Exodus 20:1-21	Hebrews 12
10	Ezekiel 21; Genesis 49:8-12	Deuteronomy 29	Ezekiel 22	Genesis 18:16-33	Psalms 51

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11	Ezekiel 24; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21	Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19	Ezekiel 25	Romans 12:9-21	1 Thessalo- nians 5:1-24
12	Ezekiel 26	Ezekiel 27	Revelation 18:9-20	Ezekiel 28	Proverbs 11:2, 4, 28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
13	Ezekiel 29; Isaiah 40:12-31	Ezekiel 30	Ezekiel 31	Ezekiel 32	Romans 9:14-24
14	Ezekiel 33; 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 4:1-6	Ezekiel 34	Psalms 23	Mark 6:34; John 10:1-21	Ezekiel 35; Hebrews 12:7-17
15	Ezekiel 36	Ezekiel 37; Genesis 2:4-7	John 20	Acts 2	Ephesians 2
16	Ezekiel 38	Exodus 7:1-6, 14:1-18	Ezekiel 39	Revelation 16, 20:7-10	Psalms 18:31-50; Ephesians 6:10-17
17	Ezekiel 40	Ezekiel 41-42	Ezekiel 43; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3	Hebrews 10:1-18	1 Peter 1:13-2:5; Revelation 21:22-27
18	Ezekiel 44; Luke 11:37-53	Hebrews 8:1-13; 1 Peter 2:9-10	Ezekiel 45-46	Exodus 12:1-28, 43-51	Luke 22:1-23; Hebrews 9:11-28
19	Ezekiel 47; Genesis 1:20-31, 2:8-9	John 4:1-26, 7:38-39	Ezekiel 48	Revelation 7:9-12, 21:1-21	John 1:1-14; Revelation 22:1-21
20	Wrap-up				

memory verses

Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”



1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



INTRODUCTION

Ezekiel is a book about how God's judgment leads us to hope. This is a difficult reality to grapple with. When we encounter the wrath of God, our response is often that God is not good or just. But one reason this is our response is because we don't place ourselves rightly in the story.

The glory and judgment of the Lord seem excessive and unwarranted unless we realize the gravity of our situation. The problem isn't God. The problem is that we have made ourselves into gods, and we refuse to lift our eyes to heavenly realities infinitely more glorious and good than ourselves. This was true of the Israelites, who continued to turn to anyone else but God for their security and salvation: other nations, other gods, human rulers and authorities, their history, their religiosity. This is also true of us.

We are the Israelites in the story of Ezekiel. We are defensive of our sin and in denial of its consequences. We naively succumb to the very things that sneakily lead us to our death: idolatry, worldliness, pride, fear of man, and the injustices born out of those sins. We reject the pathway of life offered to us by God. We have also been victims of the sins of others, stuck in a cycle of injustice and unable to save ourselves from the hold of the enemy. The necessary end of human wickedness is destruction. Because God is just, sin provokes his wrath. Because God is just, he will judge the wicked.

But judgment need not be the end of our story. We may be the rebellious, but through Christ, we become part of the remnant. When we respond in faith to the Lord's invitation to "repent and live!," he gives us a new heart and a new Spirit. God is, and always has been, forming a people for himself: a physical people with a spiritual inheritance. In Ezekiel, the glory of the Lord is intricately connected not only to his redemption of Israel, but to the full restoration that God has in store for all of his people. That is our hope.



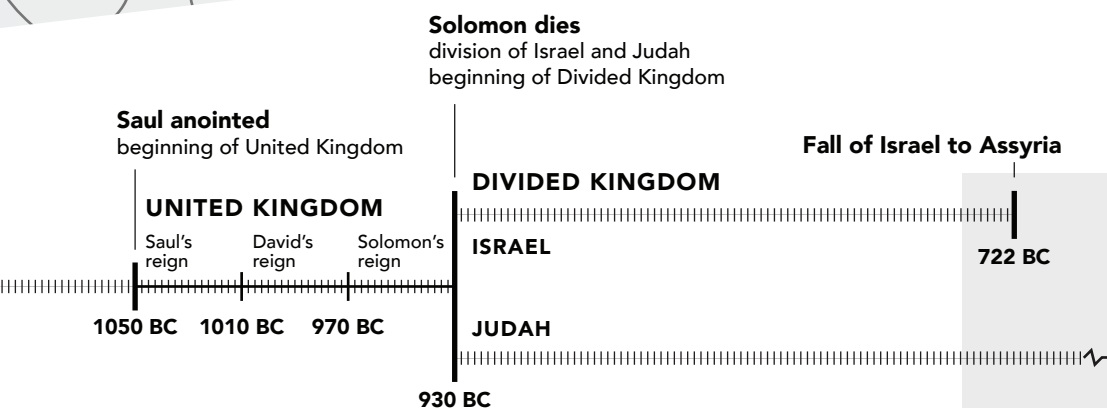
Reflect before you begin:

- 1. What is one key takeaway you have from the introduction?
- 2. At this point, what is your understanding of the book of Ezekiel?

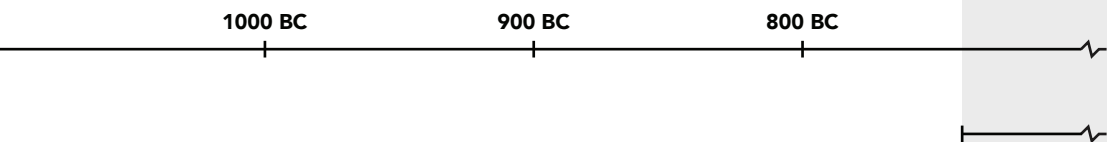
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timelíne

OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL



RISE AND FALL OF THE KINGDOM



PROPHETS



Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
destruction of the Temple
and beginning of Exile

First group returns
from exile under Zerubbabel

Second group returns
from exile under Ezra

Last group returns
from exile under Nehemiah

586 BC

EXILE

RETURN

538 BC

458 BC

432 BC

607 BC

597 BC

Second wave of Exiles to Babylon
including Ezekiel

First wave of Exiles to Babylon
Jewish elites, including Daniel

600 BC

500 BC

400 BC

Isaiah's Ministry | Judah | 740 – 681 BC

Jeremiah's Ministry | Judah | 626 – 585 BC

Ezekiel's Ministry | Babylon | 593 – 571 BC

Daniel's Ministry | Babylon | 605 – 530 BC

WEEK 1: EZEKIEL 1-3

God’s chosen people, the Israelites, are in exile. But though they are far from home, God is ever present. Through the eyes of Ezekiel, we see the glory of God. God calls Ezekiel to warn his people of the death they choose if they remain staunch in their rebellion and denial. In contrast, life is found in the fullness of the glory of the Lord and in relationship with him.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 1
Tuesday	Hebrews 1
Wednesday	Ezekiel 2; Deuteronomy 28:1-20, 45-52, 64-68
Thursday	Ezekiel 3; James 5:19-20
Friday	1 Peter 1:1-2; James 1:1
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Week's Reading Notes

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 2: EZEKIEL 4-6

God’s wrath toward his people may feel shocking to us, but it is always in proportion to the depth of sin. And yet, our hope is in God’s zealous warning; he provides an example to bear the iniquity of his people. This example of righteousness is in contrast to the gravity of our sin, and provides an opportunity for us to turn to him. If we are righteous in the face of idolatry, we may suffer, but going astray is worse.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 4
Tuesday	Daniel 3:8-30
Wednesday	Isaiah 53:1-6; 1 Peter 2:19-25
Thursday	Ezekiel 5; John 2:12-25
Friday	Ezekiel 6; Revelation 15
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 3: EZEKIEL 7-8

Idolatry doesn't present itself conspicuously; it sneaks into the cracks of places we least expect it to be. In our lack of vigilance, we allow it to creep into the very dwelling place of God, entangling our hearts and poisoning our minds against him. The Israelites' unfaithfulness to the Lord has led to judgment; the "end" has come. However, what we may not see in these chapters of Ezekiel is the extensive patience that God has maintained toward his people. They have not responded to his patience, and so in love he must discipline them. God's discipline is part of a grander vision of who his people could have been, and what we can become.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 7
Tuesday	Numbers 14; Hebrews 3:7-19
Wednesday	2 Peter 3
Thursday	Ezekiel 8
Friday	Colossians 3:1-17; 1 John 5:18-21
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Other passages to explore:

2 Chronicles 34-36; Amos 8

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 4: EZEKIEL 9-10

Throughout the Old and New Testament, God is creating a people for himself. But in these passages, it may seem that the Lord does not care for them. His presence departs from dwelling among them. But God sees beyond this moment and into the hearts of his people. He knows what is needed to bring his remnant to life and preserve them with his Spirit.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 9; Romans 11
Tuesday	Ezekiel 10
Wednesday	1 Samuel 4
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-12
Friday	Ephesians 1
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 5: EZEKIEL 11-12

In Ezekiel 11, the glory of the Lord departs to the mountain east of the city, which is what is called the Mount of Olives in the New Testament. Jesus, the glory of the Lord incarnate, departed and will return from the same mountain that the glory of the Lord departs from in exile. Though God’s people have broken the covenant with God through disobedience, he is still keeping his covenant. God promised Abraham long ago that he would increase the numbers of his people and would bless them, and he is doing so. Just as he calls them out of their land for his purposes, he will bring them home.

After they are given hope for the future, the dire vision that seemed far off and inconsequential comes to fruition in chapter 12. Many of the exiles had held out some hope that Jerusalem would stand—and somehow that if Jerusalem stood they would have some hope. But God believes the opposite. We only have hope if there can be an end to our corruption, idolatry, violence and injustice. In order for God to get his people to acknowledge their detestable practices, to recognize their violence, to see the result of their idolatries, and to eventually be restored—they must face something that would force them to admit these things.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 11
Tuesday	Genesis 17:1-11; Hebrews 11:8-16
Wednesday	Luke 19:28-44; Acts 1:1-12
Thursday	Ezekiel 12; 2 Kings 25:1-26
Friday	Proverbs 1; 1 John 1:8-2:2
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Other passages to explore: . . .

Genesis 15; Leviticus 26:1-45; Psalm 126; John 14

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

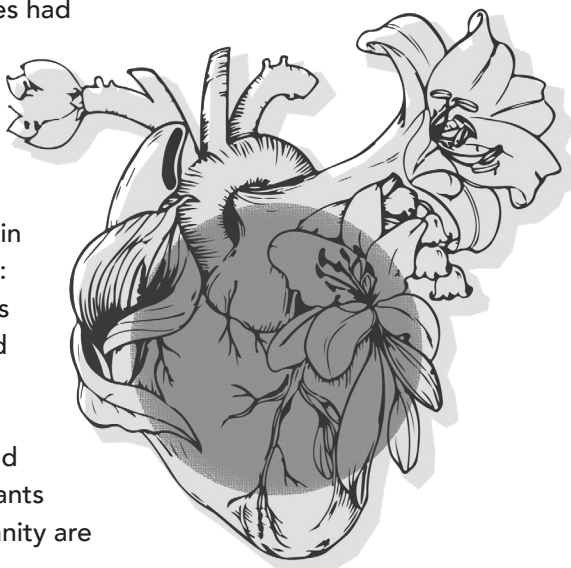
Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

covenants

	SPECIFICS	FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST
GEN 9 NOAHIC	Unlike other covenants, this first covenant was unconditional. God made a covenant with Noah and “all life on earth,” promising to never again destroy the earth with a flood.	Rather than wiping out sin by destroying humanity, God sent his Son to suffer the death we deserve and offer life to all who believe in him.
GEN 12, 15, 17 ABRAHAMIC	God called Abraham to trust him and teach his family to worship him alone (Genesis 17:7-10, 18:19). He promised to multiply Abraham’s family, give them the land of Canaan, and bless all the nations on earth through them.	Jesus is the descendant of Abraham through whom all the nations are blessed. Those who have faith like Abraham are counted righteous and included in the family of God (Romans 4).
EX 19, DEUT 28 MOSAIC	God chose Israel to be his holy nation through whom he would reveal himself to the world. Obeying his law given to Moses would bring them blessing, while disobeying it would bring dire consequences. Israel’s repeated failure highlighted the law’s inability to make sinful people righteous (Romans 3:20-24).	Christ fulfilled the law, displaying the love that summed up every regulation (Matthew 5:17-20, 22:34-40). His sacrifice takes away sins permanently, unlike the Levitical sacrifices (Hebrews 9:9-14). And his Spirit enables us to please God and display his holiness to the world, as Israel was meant to (Romans 8:5-9; 1 Peter 2:9).
2 SAM 7 DAVIDIC	God promised to establish David’s dynasty forever, and he reaffirmed his promise to protect and provide for his people in their own land. The king was required to obey the law and read it daily (Deuteronomy 17:14-20); God would treat him as a son, disciplining him if necessary (2 Samuel 7:14). After generations of wicked kings, God sent his people into exile with no descendant of David on the throne.	Jesus is the Son of God, the descendant of David who will rule over the nations forever (Psalm 2; Hebrews 1). He perfectly obeyed the law and taught the law to his people. He was mocked and crucified as “king of the Jews,” but now he is seated at the right hand of God (Mark 15:26, 16:19). When he comes again, he will judge the nations from his throne, and his people will dwell with him in peace (Revelation 20:11-21:5).

GOD'S PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE

Throughout history, God has revealed himself and unfolded his plan of redemption by establishing covenants. A covenant “defines the relationship” between two parties, binding them to certain terms and laying out consequences for violating those terms. With each covenant, God made promises to his people and gave them an opportunity to partner in his redemptive work. In the prophetic books of the Bible, the Israelites had broken their covenant with God, and God warned and judged his people for the consequences of their disobedience. But even in judgment, there is hope: God fulfills his covenants by saving, restoring, and transforming his people when they were unable to do so themselves. And ultimately, all the covenants between God and humanity are fulfilled in Christ.



SPECIFICS

FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

HEB 8, LK 22:19-20 NEW COVENANT

Despite Israel's unfaithfulness to the covenants, God remained faithful. The prophets anticipated a new covenant by which God would grant forgiveness to his people and send his Spirit to make them righteous (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-28).

In Christ, God both fulfilled all the human covenant obligations and fulfilled all his covenant promises. Jesus mediated a new covenant in his blood shed on the cross, making the old covenant sacrifices obsolete and giving new life by his Spirit (Hebrews 8; 1 Corinthians 3).

WEEK 6: EZEKIEL 13-15

There have always been, and always will be, false prophets in the land and in the church. Just as we cannot save ourselves, we cannot rest secure in the faith or word of other people. Authority to save and to heal belongs to God alone through his word and the Word incarnate, Jesus.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 13
Tuesday	Matthew 7:15-29; 1 John 4:1-6
Wednesday	Ezekiel 14
Thursday	Acts 3
Friday	Ezekiel 15; John 15
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 7: EZEKIEL 16+23

Shame is a necessary result of sin; it is not good, but it holds the potential to be redemptive. There is only one remedy to shame: atonement. The raw sting of shame either separates us from God or drives us to the cross. Whether we are aware of it or not, we all bear the shame depicted in these passages. We are the prostitute. But with Christ as our groom, we are also the bride.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 16
Tuesday	Ezekiel 23
Wednesday	Hosea 1:1-2:23
Thursday	Exodus 32; Romans 1:18-2:16
Friday	Romans 5:1-11; Ephesians 5
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Other passages to explore:

Isaiah 62; 2 Corinthians 7:1-13

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 8: EZEKIEL 17-19

These passages portray the importance of trusting the wisdom of God rather than the elusive power of human strength and alliances. God demonstrates that he will bring down the scheming pride of those still living in Jerusalem who think that they can control their own fate. Still, God does not rejoice in the deserved destruction of people because of their pride. He laments over the princes of Israel and their choice to seek power at the time when God sought to humble Judah and lead them back to righteousness. Instead, honesty with oneself, others, and one’s Creator leads to righteousness and integrity as an individual; this is true strength. In the future, God will replant his exiled people and grow them into a fruitful people.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 17
Tuesday	Ezekiel 18; Jeremiah 31:28-30
Wednesday	Romans 14
Thursday	Ezekiel 19; 2 Chronicles 36; Daniel 1:1-7
Friday	Jeremiah 17:5-13; 1 Corinthians 2
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 9: EZEKIEL 20

The Sabbath is God’s commandment for his people to cease their daily toil and remember that it is God himself who gives and sustains life. At face value, this seems like an easy command—to rest. But the human heart is bent toward pursuing false security through self-provision and production of any kind. Even for us today, the discipline of the Sabbath will fight idolatry in our hearts and leads us to worship the One who provides everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-11).

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 20:1-29
Tuesday	Ezekiel 20:30-49
Wednesday	Exodus 16
Thursday	Exodus 20:1-21
Friday	Hebrews 12
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Week's Reading Notes

"You will know that I am the Lord" is the most repeated phrase in Ezekiel, occurring 53 times in some variation.

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 10: EZEKIEL 21-22

God calls Ezekiel to lament and groan with a broken heart out of grief over the sins of Jerusalem. The intent is to help the people connect to the right emotion for what is coming. But they don't believe, and they don't feel conviction, doom, or terror for what is due the utmost seriousness. In Genesis 49:10, God said that "the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." This was the first example of the everlasting covenant of God with the people of Judah. But in Ezekiel 21, God is ending the scepter that he has said in previous chapters has shriveled into a stick. The line of kings has failed because of sin, not because of God's unfaithfulness. God cannot find anyone righteous to save (Ezekiel 22:30, see also Genesis 18:16-33). They have rejected the One who made that promise—rejected his ways and rejected his leadership. But after destruction, he will again bring about his promise through final restoration.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 21; Genesis 49:8-12
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 29
Wednesday	Ezekiel 22
Thursday	Genesis 18:16-33
Friday	Psalms 51
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 11: EZEKIEL 24-25

These passages include the fall of Jerusalem, as well as oracles of judgment against Israel’s closest neighbors, who took advantage of them in their weakness. Every person is both a victim and perpetrator of sin. Our wounds drive us to our idols; our idols bind us to themselves through sin; our slavery to sin is the pathway to the grave. We continue cycles of injustice until we break them through the victorious righteousness of Christ in us, through the power of his death and resurrection.

When we see someone who is facing the results of their sin, it is often tempting to add shame, isolation, or even punishment to the fruits of that mistake. But this is not how God tells us to treat people that are suffering, no matter what the reason is. God is always working for redemption, and may be inflicting punishment with his left hand and simultaneously offering healing with his right. We are not usually called to add onto his acts of judgment; rather, we are called to do what he tells us is right. Obedience requires trust that God’s glory is intricately connected with his goodness toward us.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 24; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21
Tuesday	Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19
Wednesday	Ezekiel 25
Thursday	Romans 12:9-21
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-24
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Week's Reading Notes

Other passages to explore:
Deuteronomy 32:1-47; Matthew 24:1-35

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 12: EZEKIEL 26-28

The nation of Tyre had a highly privileged location that they utilized to prosper. The result was incredible wealth, education, and beauty. This led them to be both wise and foolish at the same time. And since they thought they were the best of the best, they weren't willing to see the wisdom of God that was accessible next door in Israel. We must keep our eyes wide open to discern both the potential dangers of privilege and splendor, and the unfading spiritual riches found in God.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 26
Tuesday	Ezekiel 27
Wednesday	Revelation 18:9-20
Thursday	Ezekiel 28
Friday	Proverbs 11:2, 4, 28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 13: EZEKIEL 29-32

These prophecies are targeted toward the nation of Egypt, but in principle, they are prophecies against pride and the selfish exploitation of others. God faults Egypt for taking the place of the helper of Israel only to betray them, harm them, and ultimately seek to subjugate them. In an act of justice for his people and for his Name’s sake, God will humble Egypt.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 29; Isaiah 40:12-31
Tuesday	Ezekiel 30
Wednesday	Ezekiel 31
Thursday	Ezekiel 32
Friday	Romans 9:14-24
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 14: EZEKIEL 33-35

These passages give us the opportunity to hold in tension God's kindness and wrath. Though the book of Ezekiel up to this point has been heavy with coming wrath, the Lord is "slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Instead, with the warning of judgment, he pleads that they would turn from their wicked ways and live (Ezekiel 33:10-11). God is calling Ezekiel to not be afraid to be a watchman and to preach God's word, whether it contains words of comfort or of gloom. If he doesn't, there will be blood on his hands. God also promises to raise up a shepherd and to himself shepherd and care for his sheep. He will purify the flock so that they are healthy and strong.

God disciplines us because he loves us, just as a father disciplines the son he loves. This is in contrast to the son who turns from his father; he may not be disciplined in the short term, but he is also not protected or included in the blessings of inheritance. In the Old Testament, Esau sold his inheritance as a son for the immediate gratification of a bowl of stew (Genesis 25:29-34). Esau is the forefather of the people of Edom. “In the New Testament, Esau becomes a picture of all who turn away from the faith because of sinful unbelief or immorality (Hebrews 12:16).”⁶

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 33; 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 4:1-6
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34
Wednesday	Psalms 23
Thursday	Mark 6:34; John 10:1-21
Friday	Ezekiel 35; Hebrews 12:7-17
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

6 Michael Lawrence, *Ezekiel: A 12-Week Study* (Crossway, 2018), 62.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 15: EZEKIEL 36-37

Throughout time, God is consistent in his work to create, sustain, and resurrect life. He breathes life into the dust. He resurrects a living army from a valley of dry bones. He fills his church with his Spirit and empowers her to be spiritually fruitful. The sons of God are those who have been made alive by his Spirit and will receive his eternal inheritance.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 36
Tuesday	Ezekiel 37; Genesis 2:4-7
Wednesday	John 20
Thursday	Acts 2
Friday	Ephesians 2
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Week's Reading Notes



Other passages to explore:

Psalms 16, 86; John 1:43-49, 3:1-21, 11:1-44; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 16: EZEKIEL 38-39

God utilizes people—both wicked and good—in his purposes to bring glory to his name and to rescue his people. This was true of Pharaoh, and in these passages, it is true of Gog. But these are not only physical battles; behind the earthly facade is a spiritual war. In time, the true enemy will be revealed and finally judged.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 38
Tuesday	Exodus 7:1-6, 14:1-18
Wednesday	Ezekiel 39
Thursday	Revelation 16, 20:7-10
Friday	Psalms 18:31-50; Ephesians 6:10-17
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 17: EZEKIEL 40-43

“The temple was symbolic of Israel’s identity”;⁷ it is the place where God dwells with his people. In the garden of Eden, God himself walked with Adam and Eve. But once sin entered the world, he dwelt among his people in tabernacles and temples. Through Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God dwells in us; we are his temple. But holiness is required in order to dwell with God, because he is holy. God’s holiness leads us to repentance of our sin and impurity. Just as the temple was cleansed through atonement, we are made holy through Christ’s work of atonement.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 40
Tuesday	Ezekiel 41-42
Wednesday	Ezekiel 43; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3
Thursday	Hebrews 10:1-18
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-2:5; Revelation 21:22-27
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

7 Michael Lawrence, *Ezekiel: A 12-Week Study* (Crossway, 2018), 74.

Other passage to explore:
Revelation 4

Revelation 4

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

God dwells with his people

THE TEMPLE THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

DEVELOPMENT

THE GARDEN OF EDEN AS GOD'S TEMPLE

Eden was the original place where God dwelt with mankind; he walked in the garden with his people. Adam and Eve were commanded to “work and take care of” the garden. The Levites were later commanded to do the same for the tabernacle (Numbers 3:7-8, 18:4-7). Adam and Eve’s failure to protect this sacred space caused them to be barred from it themselves.

THE TABERNACLE

God wanted to dwell among his people, so he gave Moses detailed instructions to build a tent for his presence at the center of Israel’s camp. With its botanical imagery, cherubim, precious metals, and tree-like lampstands, the tabernacle was reminiscent of the garden. When the tabernacle was completed, the glory of the Lord filled it, but Moses was unable to enter.

DESCRIPTION

KEY PASSAGES

Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Genesis 3:24 “After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Exodus 25:8-9 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.”

Exodus 40:34 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”

DEVELOPMENT

DESCRIPTION

KEY PASSAGES

DAVID WANTS TO BUILD A "HOUSE" IN JERUSALEM

God made it clear that he did not need a "house of cedar," and David's history of bloodshed disqualified him from building one.⁸ Nonetheless, God permitted David's son to build the temple and promised to establish the house (royal line) of David forever. David gathered a stockpile of materials and passed his God-given building plans on to his son Solomon.

2 Samuel 7:7 "Did I ever say to any of their rulers..., "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

1 Chronicles 28:3-6 "You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood...Solomon your son is the one who will build my house."

SOLOMON COMPLETES THE TEMPLE

Solomon completed the temple, brought the ark into it, and began the priestly services there. For all its glory and splendor, the temple could not contain God, yet God chose to meet his people there. Solomon pleaded for God to hear their prayers of repentance toward the temple, even if they should be exiled to a foreign land. God's glory filled the temple upon its completion, just as it had filled the tabernacle.

2 Chronicles 6:18 "The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

2 Chronicles 6:38-39 "If they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray... toward the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer."

DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

God's people repeatedly turned to idols and ignored his law, including neglecting and perverting temple worship (Ezekiel 8). After centuries of rebellion, God followed through on his threat of sending his people into exile and destroying the temple at the hands of Babylon. The building had no power to protect them, for God's glory had departed (Ezekiel 9-11).

2 Chronicles 7:19-22 "But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you...This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord.'"

DEVELOPMENT

PROMISE OF A NEW TEMPLE

Ezekiel received a vision of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, larger and more magnificent than the original, where God's people would worship in his presence once again. Like Eden (Genesis 2:10) and like the throne of God in the heavenly city (Revelation 22:1), a life-giving river flowed from the temple (see John 4:10-14).⁹

TEMPLE REBUILT AFTER RETURN FROM EXILE

King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. But the new temple was a shadow of the original and fell far short of Ezekiel's vision. Old men who remembered the original temple wept at the sight, and there was no sign of God's glory filling it.

JESUS IS THE TEMPLE

Jesus is our high priest, our atoning sacrifice, the king from David's line who will reign forever, and the fulfillment of the temple. Like the Jerusalem temple, Jesus became God's dwelling place with mankind, full of God's glory. He entered the heavenly tabernacle and sacrificed himself, making the old temple and its sacrifices obsolete (Hebrews 9:23-28). True worship is no longer bound to a physical location but to Christ, who is seated in heaven and present by his Spirit (John 4:21-26).

DESCRIPTION

KEY PASSAGES

Ezekiel 43:4-5 "The glory of the Lord entered the temple through the gate facing east... and the glory of the Lord filled the temple."

Ezekiel 48:35 "And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE."

Ezra 3:12 "But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid..."

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory..."

John 2:19-21 "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days'...But the temple he had spoken of was his body."

Mark 15:37-38 "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

⁹ Some interpreters believe Ezekiel's vision will be literally fulfilled during the millennium, while others believe it represents worship in the new creation.

DEVELOPMENT

THE CHURCH IS THE TEMPLE

EACH BELIEVER IS A TEMPLE

DESCRIPTION

Christ poured out the Holy Spirit upon the Church, making us God's dwelling place both individually and collectively (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:17). We are the stones that compose God's temple and the priests that serve in it (1 Peter 2:5). We are filled with God's glory as the Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

KEY PASSAGES

Ephesians 2:19-22 "...And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

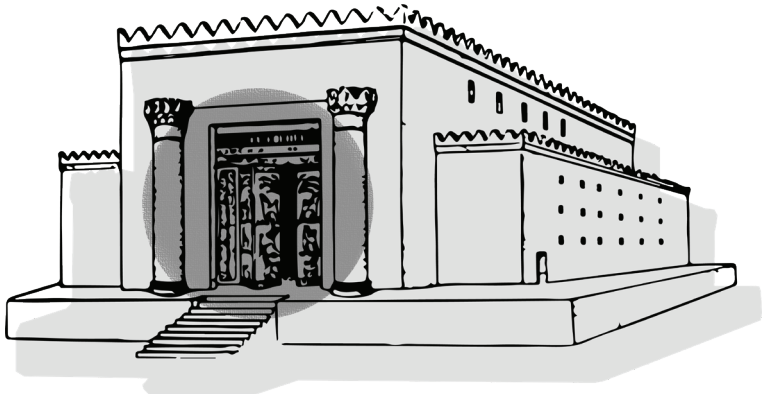
1 Corinthians 6:19 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

NEW CREATION

In the end, God will dwell with his people in a renewed creation, free from sin and death. The new Jerusalem revealed to John contains the tree and river of life. The city is golden and cube-shaped, for the whole earth will be like the former temple's Holy of Holies. There will be no physical temple to contain or mediate God's presence, since all of creation will be God's dwelling place with mankind, filled with his glory.

Revelation 21:22-23 "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light."

Revelation 22:3-4 "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face."



WEEK 18: EZEKIEL 44-46

Just as there are true and false prophets, there are also both faithful and unfaithful priests. Unfaithful priests wandered to idols themselves and led others astray. The faithful priests offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. Jesus became our faithful High Priest, and now each one in his Church is part of a royal priesthood. Through the prince of Israel, God will restore justice, inheritance, and worship for his people. We also have access to this Prince and the imperishable gifts of his kingdom.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 44; Luke 11:37-53
Tuesday	Hebrews 8:1-13; 1 Peter 2:9-10
Wednesday	Ezekiel 45-46
Thursday	Exodus 12:1-28, 43-51
Friday	Luke 22:1-23; Hebrews 9:11-28
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

Other passages to explore:
Amos 5:4-15, 24; James 4:4-10

Amos 5:4-15, 24; James 4:4-10

Pray

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Look Ahead

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 19: EZEKIEL 47-48

The name of the city in Ezekiel 48:35 is “The Lord is There.” But the good news of the gospel is that the Lord is here. Jesus is God incarnate who came to dwell among men. He is the faithful High Priest, our atoning sacrifice, the Prince of Israel, the good shepherd. And he is the coming King. Repent, turn to him, and live! By his Spirit, we are invigorated to life, and his kingdom is teeming with abundant diversity.

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

Read, Reflect, and Memorize

Monday	Ezekiel 47; Genesis 1:20-31, 2:8-9
Tuesday	John 4:1-26, 7:38-39
Wednesday	Ezekiel 48
Thursday	Revelation 7:9-12, 21:1-21
Friday	John 1:1-14; Revelation 22:1-21
Saturday	Use this day to catch up on your Scripture reading for the week, review the memory passage, and/or pray.

What do I need to confess? What is Jesus' prayer request for me? What do I need to thank God for? What is Jesus' prayer request for one of my close friends or family members? What is Jesus' prayer request for my enemy?

Write down at least one spiritual rhythm you will practice next week. It's okay if it's what you've always done or if it's the same as this week, but plan something to keep you consistent or accountable.

WEEK 20: WRAP-UP

Sunday

Reflect on the sermon. What was one key takeaway that you want to stick in your heart and incorporate in your life?

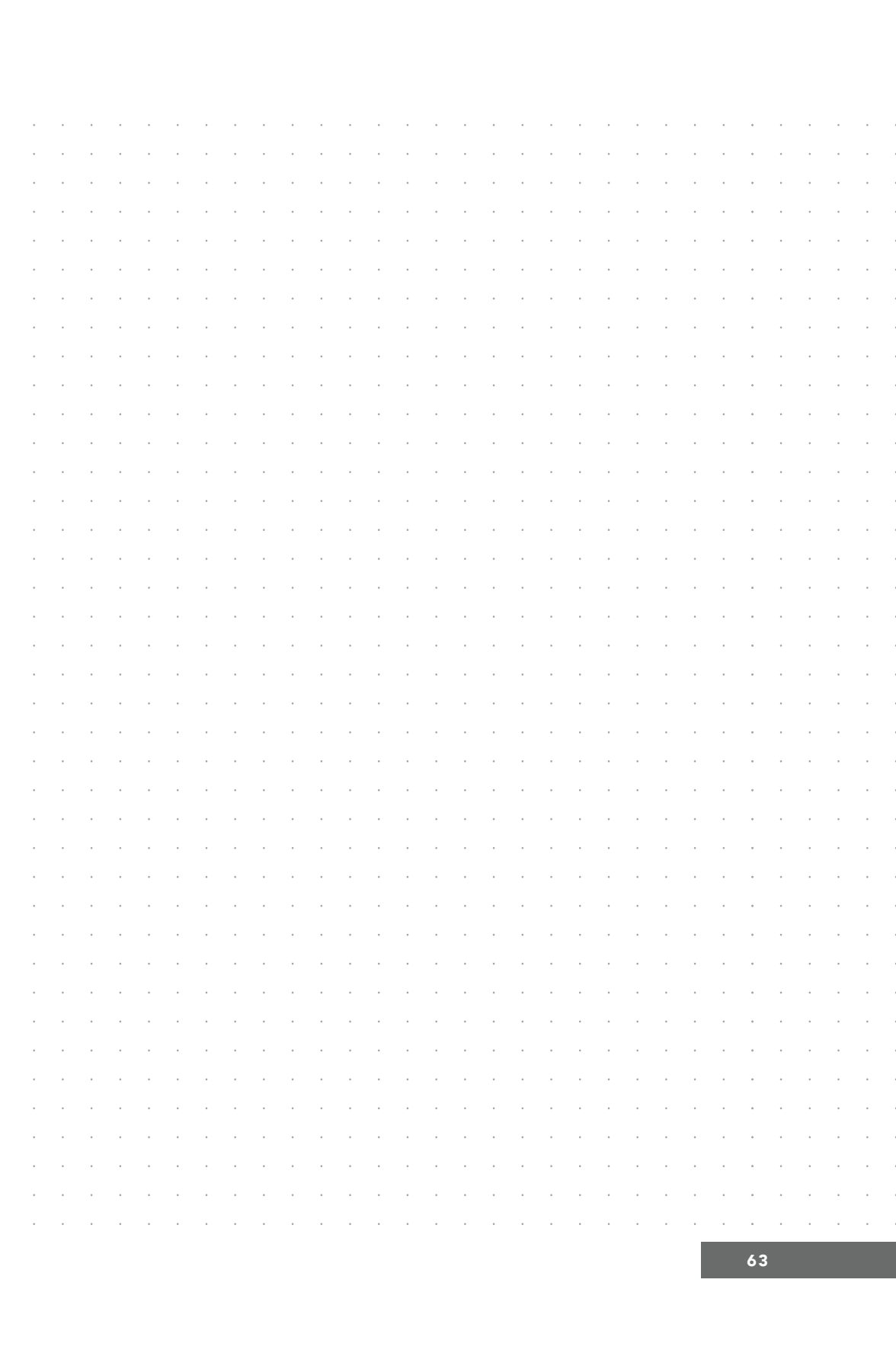
Looking Back

The word of God is powerful to shape us, change us, and produce fruit in our lives. Let's take time to reflect and glean from our time in Ezekiel. Look back through your notes from this devotional, and reflect:

1. What is something you learned that was unexpected? Or, was your mind changed in some way?
2. How has studying the book of Ezekiel impacted your relationship with God?
3. What did you learn about God?
4. What did you learn about yourself?
5. How do you see the gospel and the hope of Jesus revealed in Ezekiel?
6. How does what you have learned through this study practically impact you and apply to your life?
7. Any other key takeaways?







ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ezekiel: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible) by Michael Lawrence (Author), J.I. Packer, (Editor), Dane C. Portland (Series Editor), Lane T. Dennis (Series Editor)

Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible by Daniel M. Doriani

The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose in an Age of Distraction by Justin Whitmel Earley