

The Prophet Ezekiel



John Singer Sargeant's rendition of Ezekiel (12:6)

Ezekiel was carried away captive to Babylon at the age of twenty-five—one of 10,000 captives. In the fifth year of his captivity God called the young priest to prophesy to “a rebellious nation, impudent and stubborn.” For more than twenty-five years Ezekiel faithfully carried Jehovah’s message of recompense upon a rebellious house and the restoration of a holy remnant, to a captive nation in a distant and foreign land. In this study the book will be analyzed in twenty-six lessons placing emphasis on understanding the prophet’s presentation of Messiah as the Second David.

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Fourteen: *The Conquest Begins*

Lesson Aim: See Ezekiel vindicated as a prophet before Israel.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 24:1–25:17

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 24:24

Background Texts: 2 Kings 25:1–30; 2 Chronicles 36:11–21; Jeremiah 16:1–9; 39:1–7; 52:1–30; Ezekiel 3:22–27; 4:1–8; Psalm 137:1–9

Questions for Discussion

1. What was the significance of the date upon which this oracle was given? (2 Kings 25:1) Why should this have impressed those that received it? (Ezekiel 24:24)
2. Explain the parable of the “seething pot”. (Ezekiel 24:3–14) [NOTE: Consider verses 4–5 as Jerusalem’s view of themselves and verses 6–14 as God’s view.]
3. What does Ezekiel’s reaction to the death of his wife signify? (24:15–23)
4. What would Ezekiel be to Israel in captivity? (24:24–27) How would they know? (4:1–8)
5. Who would report the fall of Jerusalem to Ezekiel? (24:26–27) What would happen in that day? (Ezekiel 3:22–27; 4:1–8; 33:21–29)
6. What had the Ammonites done in the day of Jerusalem’s calamity? (25:1–7) Why were they emboldened to do this? (cf. 21:18–24) What would become of them? (25:4–7; cf. 21:30–32)
7. What is the meaning of Moab’s derisive remark concerning Judah? (25:8) What would God do to them? (25:9–11)
8. How had Edom dealt with Judah? (25:12) When had he done this? (Psalm 137:1–9)
9. What would become of Edom? (25:13–14)
10. Why had the Philistines avenged themselves on Judah? (25:15) What would God do to them for this? (25:16–17)

Question for Thought

What imagery did Jesus borrow from the prophet Ezekiel to describe the hypocritical Pharisees of his day? What is the image of an unclean pot or dish used to signify?

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Lesson Fifteen: *Retribution upon Tyre*

Lesson Aim: Learn why God determined Tyre should die like those slain in the seas.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 26:1–28:26

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 28:9

Background Texts: 2 Kings 25:1–17; Jeremiah 18–1–12; ; Matthew 11:20–25; Daniel 4:1–37

Questions for Discussion

1. Describe the destruction Nebuchadnezzar brought upon Tyre? (26:1–14) Who actually completed the destruction of Tyre?
2. What effect would the fall of Tyre have upon the Mediterranean economies? (26:15–21)
3. Indicate on the attached map the trading area which Tyre maintained. (27:1–25) What reward had this trade brought to Tyre? (27:25)
4. What would be the end of Tyre? [Express your answer in terms like the figure (27:26–36).]
5. How was pride the cause of the fall of Tyre? (28:1–10) Compare and contrast the King of Tyre and Nebuchadnezzar. (**See:** Daniel 4)
6. How did wealth and prosperity lead to Tyre's downfall? (28:11–17)
7. Why compare the King of Tyre with the angels on Mt. Sinai and Adam in Eden? (28:13–16)
8. What would become of Sidon? (28:2–0–23) Why? (28:24–26; cf. Matthew 11:20–25)
9. What promise does God make concerning the captivity of Judah to Sidon? (28:25–26)
10. What effect would fulfilled prophecy have on the nations surrounding Judah? (25:5, 7, 11, 17; 26:6; 28:24).

Question for Thought

Consider Ezekiel 28:9, how does the verse speak to you personally concerning the certainty of the return of Christ with His angels in judgment upon all men?

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Lesson Sixteen: *Retribution upon Egypt and Ethiopia*

Lesson Aim: Learn why God allowed Babylon to conquer Egypt and her allies.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 29:1–30:26

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 30:25

Background Texts: Jeremiah 25:8:21; 37:1–10; 44:1–3-0; Isaiah 19:1–25; 36:1–10

Questions for Discussion

1. How is the overthrow of Pharaoh Hophra pictured? (29:1–5)
2. What was Egypt to Israel in their alliance? (29:6–7; cf. Isaiah 36:6; Jeremiah 37:1–10)
3. What judgment would come upon Egypt? (29:8–12)
4. In what condition would Jehovah return Egypt to their land? (29:13–15) Why? (29:16)
5. Unto whom did Jehovah give Egypt? (29:17–20; cf. Jeremiah 25:8–19) Why?
6. What is the significance of the latter oracle (29:17) being attached to the former one (29:10) in this context? (cf. 29:16)
7. How did Israel's horn begin to "bud" as a result of the fall of Egypt? (29:31)
8. When would Egypt know the LORD? (29:21; 30:8, 19, 26)
9. Who and what did the LORD destroy in Egypt? (30:1–19)
10. How long after the original prophecy against Egypt did God fulfill his threats? (30:20–26; cf. 29:1, 17; 31:1; 32:1, 17)

Question for Thought

Identify some "broken reeds" upon which the people of God trust even now.

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Lesson Seventeen: *Retribution on Egypt and Ethiopia (Continued)*

Lesson Aim: See Egypt reproved for failing to learn that Jehovah rules in the kingdom of men.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 31:1–32:32

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 32:3, 4

Background Texts: Isaiah 13:6–22; 34:1–10; Jeremiah 4:19–31; 43:8–13; 44:29–30; 46:13–26;
Psalm 9:1–20

Questions for Discussion

1. Note again the dates of the seven prophecies in this section (29:1, 17; 30:20; 31:1; 32:1, 17). What is the significance of dating these prophecies?
2. How does Ezekiel describe Assyria as a world power among the other nations? (31:1–9)
3. What did God cause to happen to Assyria? (31:10–14)
4. How did the other nations react to the removal of Assyria as a world power? 31:15–17)
5. What warning was given to Egypt? (31:18)
6. How is Egypt portrayed by the prophet reflecting the imminent judgment God will bring upon them? (32:1–6)
7. How would the fall of Egypt be received by the nations of the world? (Ezekiel 32:7–16; cf. Isaiah 13:10; 34:4; Jeremiah 4:23, 28)
8. Where is Egypt pictured as being laid? (32:17–31) Who is there with her? How does she compare to them?
9. All the nations that forget God shall be turned into “hell” (see: Psalm 9:17). Having read Ezekiel 32, what do you think the psalmist meant?
10. Why is Pharaoh said to be comforted over the loss of his multitudes in “hell”? (32:31–32)

Question for Thought

While the picture of “hell” is a figure, what truth do we learn concerning those that go into the unseen world?

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Lesson Eighteen: *Ezekiel's Role and Responsibilities as a Prophet*

Lesson Aim: Come to appreciate the serious responsibilities involved in being a prophet..

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 33:1–33

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 33:6

Background Texts: Numbers 10:1–10; Ezekiel 3:15–27; 18:1–32; 24:24–27; Jeremiah 39:1–7; Deuteronomy 18:20–22

Questions for Discussion

1. Unto what does Jehovah liken the responsibilities of a prophet? (33:1–7)
2. What is “the death of the wicked”? (33:8–11) How might this death be escaped? (33:12–16)
3. Why would Ezekiel be responsible for the death of the wicked seeing such a one died in his own sins? (33:8, 9)
4. Why could the righteous not trust in his own righteousness to deliver him from death when he committed sin?
5. Why did Israel complain that God was not fair or “equal”? (33:17–20)
6. When was Jerusalem destroyed? How long after that did one come to Ezekiel? (33:21) What happened to Ezekiel? (33:22) How was this a sign to those of the captivity ((3:22–27; 4:24–27)
7. What were the Jews that remained in Palestine saying? (33:24) What was God’s response to them? (33:25–26) What would God do to cause them to know He is the LORD? (33:27–29)
8. What were the Jews in Babylon saying? (33:30) Were their words and their actions in agreement? (33:31)
9. What did God mean in the comparison of Ezekiel’s words to “a lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice”? (32:32)
10. When would the captive know a true prophet had been among them? (33:33)

Question for Thought

How do the responsibilities of Ezekiel compare to those of the evangelist of the Gospel?

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Lesson Nineteen: *Prophecy against the Shepherds of Israel*

Lesson Aim: See the consequences of failing to discharge the duties of responsible oversight.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 34:1–31

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 34:23, 24

Background Texts: Psalm 23; Isaiah 11:1–6; 56:9–11; Jeremiah 31:30–33; Micah 3:1–7; Ezekiel 16:60–63; 20:37–38; Matthew 10:5–15; 25:31–46

Questions for Discussion

1. Who are “the Shepherds of Israel”? (34:1) What had they done? (cf., Isaiah 56:11) What should they have rather done? (34:2–4)
2. What had become of the Lord’s sheep as a result of the shepherd’s neglect? (34:5–6)
3. What would God do to the shepherd’s because of their neglect? (34:7–10)
4. What would God be to His scattered flock? (34:11–16) Who are these scattered sheep?
5. Who are the “fat cattle” and the “he-goats” in Ezekiel’s metaphor of Israel? (34:17; cf. 20:37, 38) What had they done? (34:18) How had the “lean cattle” and “rams” fared in the flock with them? (34:19–21)
6. By whom would God save His flock? (34:22–24; cf. Matthew 10:5–15) Who is this prince?
7. What is the covenant that God will make with His flock? (34:25; cf. Jeremiah 31:30–33; Ezekiel 16:60–63)
8. When did the recovered remnant enjoy the peace and blessings described here? (34:26–31)
9. What is the “plantation of renown” in Ezekiel 34:29?
10. Why must a literal, temporal, futurist interpretation of this text be incorrect?

Question for Thought

What important lessons should elders of the church learn from this text?

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Lesson Twenty: *Judgment on the Mountains of Seir & Israel*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God avenges Himself upon His rebellious enemies and shows mercy to the humble and penitent.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 35:1–36:38

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 36:36

Background Texts: Obadiah, Psalm 137; Genesis 36:1–43; Haggai 2:120–19; Malachi 3:8–15; Deuteronomy 30:1–20; Jeremiah 18:6–10

Questions for Discussion

1. What judgment does Ezekiel announce will come upon Mt. Seir? (35:1–4, 6–9, 14–15) What is the “perpetual hatred” of which the prophet speaks? (35:5)
2. What was the “time of calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end”? (35:5)
3. What designs did the Edomites have upon the land of Canaan? (35:10; 36:2–5) What blasphemies had they spoken against Israel? (35:11–13)
4. What did God mean when He said, “I have lifted up My hand”? (36:1–7)
5. What mistaken idea did the heathen have about the land? (36:13) What was the true cause of Israel’s captivity? (36:16–20) How would Jehovah prove the heathen wrong? (36:18–12)
6. For whose sake did the Lord show mercy on Israel? (36:21–22) Why was this necessary? (36:23–24)
7. How would God be sanctified in the eyes of Israel before the heathen? (36:23–32)
8. What would God do for an obedient Israel in the land? (36:33–34; cf., Haggai 2:10–19; Malachi 3:8–15; Deuteronomy 30:1–20; Jeremiah 18:6–10)
9. What would God do for the land that the heathen would surely see? (36:35–36)
10. God had refused inquiry from the elders of Israel. (cf., 8:1; 14:1–3; 20:31) Why? (33:30–33) However, concerning what one thing would God still hear from them?

Question for Thought

Have the promises to the land of Canaan made in Ezekiel 36 been fulfilled? Why or why not?

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Lesson Twenty–One: *The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones*

Lesson Aim: Learn that a reunified Israel will dwell in the land in expecting the coming Christ.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 37:1–28

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 37:11–12

Background Texts: Isaiah 26:12–19; Daniel 12:1–4; Jeremiah 46:27–28; Nehemiah 1:8–11; Ezra 1:1–2:70; Revelation 20:4–6

Questions for Discussion

1. What did the Lord show Ezekiel in an “open valley”? (37:1–2) When Ezekiel saw, what did the Lord ask him? (37:3) What was Ezekiel’s answer?
2. What instruction did the Lord give Ezekiel concerning what he saw? (37:4–6) What happened when Ezekiel obeyed? (37:7–8)
3. What did God command Ezekiel to do next? (37:9) What followed? (37:10)
4. What did the vision mean? (37:11–14)
5. What significance does the wind have relative to those that were slain? (37:9–10; 36:25–29)
6. What did God command Ezekiel to do with the names of Judah and Israel? (37:15–17)
7. What did Ezekiel’s actions concerning the sticks mean? (37:18–19)
8. Did Ezekiel’s object lesson with the two sticks pertain to the physical nation of Israel? (37:20–21; cf. Jeremiah 46:27–28)
9. What would be true of the “restored Israel”? (37:22–27)
10. What would the heathen know as a result of God’s mercy toward Israel? (37:28)

Question for Thought

Is the resurrection in chapter 37 literal or figurative? In light of this, what do we learn about resurrection from this text and others like it? (Daniel 12:1–4; Isaiah 26:12–19; Revelation 20:4–6)

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Lesson Twenty-Two: *Gog & Magog*

Lesson Aim: Learn the significance of this great battle between Israel & her enemies.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 38:1–39:29

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 39:25–26

Background Texts: Revelation 20:1–13; Daniel 11:1–12:13

Questions for Discussion

1. What does God allow to come against His people? (38:1–17) Who does this nation represent?
2. When would this great army come against Israel? (38:8, 16) How does Israel compare to this great army? (38:9–13)
3. What did Ezekiel prophesy against Gog? (38:14–23) How would Magog and its confederates be defeated? (38:18–23)
4. What would God do to make His name known among His people Israel? (39:1–8)
5. How long would Israel burn the weapons of wood once possessed by Magog? (39:9–10) How long would Israel bury the dead of Magog? (39:16) What do these things signify?
6. What would the heathen learn from this tremendous slaughter? What would Israel learn? (39:17–22)
7. Of what does this vision assure Israel? (39:23–29; cf. Daniel 2:44–45)

Question for Thought

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3. How does this text relate to the message of Ezekiel's vision of Gog and Magog?

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Lesson Twenty–Three: *The Vision of the New Temple*

Lesson Aim: Learn that a holy God demands a holy worship from a holy people.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 40:1–43:12

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 43:10

Background Texts: Revelation 11:1–2; 21:1–27; John 4:19–26; Zechariah 2:1–5; Hebrews 9:1–24; Jeremiah 31:38–40; Ezekiel 8:1–9:4; 10:18–22; 11:22–23

Questions for Discussion

1. Where did the “hand of the Lord” transport Ezekiel in the first month of the 25th year of the captivity? (40:1) How long after the destruction of Jerusalem was this?
2. Who does Ezekiel meet there? What does he have? What is does he intend to do? (40:3–4) What is Ezekiel supposed to do with what he receives from this man? (40:4)
3. What is the primary emphasis of these chapters? (40:5, 8–9, 11, 13, 19, etc.) What does this signify? (Ezekiel 42:20;

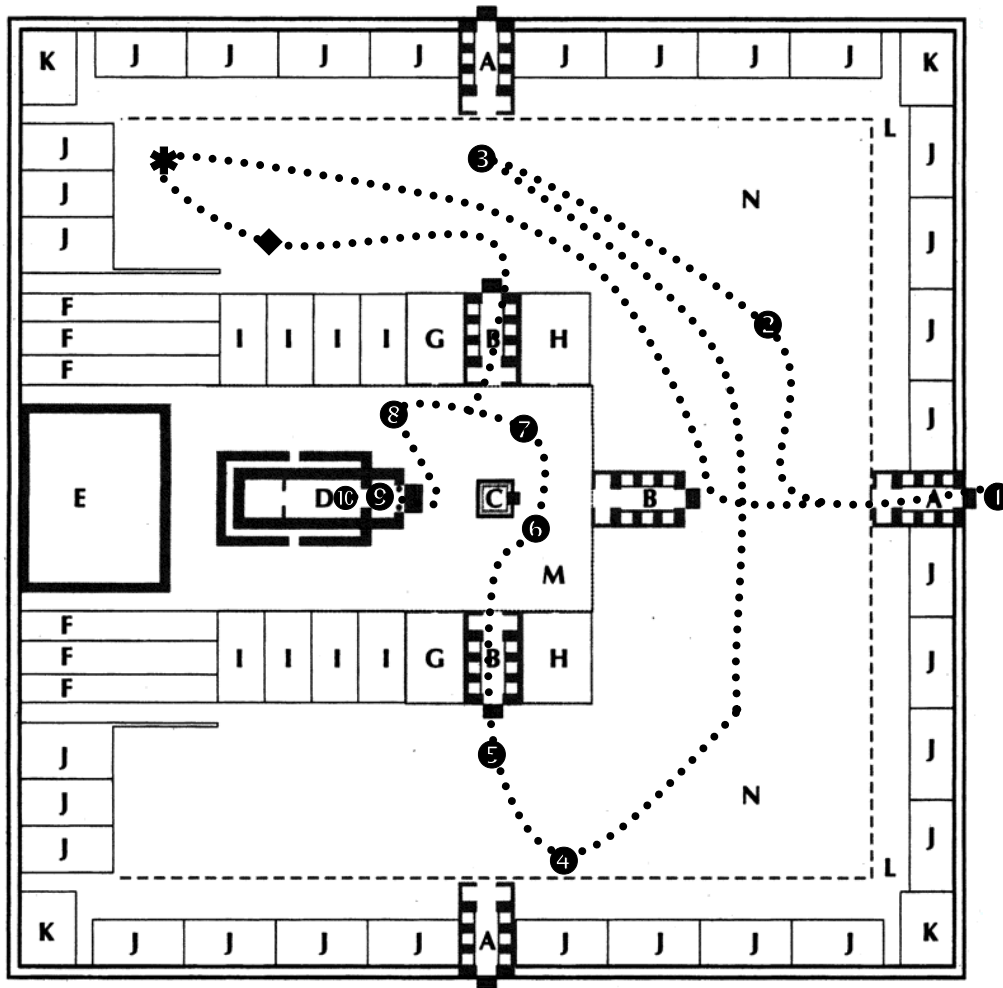
cf. Revelation 11:1–2; 21:15, 27; Zechariah 2:2)

4. When the Temple was measured what were the dimensions of the following structures:
 - (a) The Wall about the House (40:5)
 - (b) The Gateways (40:6–27)
 - (c) The Court (40:44–47)
 - (d) The Porch (40:48–49)
 - (e) The Holy Place (41:2)
 - (f) The Most Holy Place (41:4)
 - (g) The Separate Place (41:13–15)
 - (h) The Total Dimensions around the Temple Area (42:15–20)
5. What does the return of the Glory of Jehovah to the Temple signify in this vision? (43:1–9; cf. Ezekiel 8:6; 10:18–22; 11:22–23)

Question for Thought

How does measuring the pattern of the Temple by the children of Israel make them ashamed of their iniquity? (43:10–11; cf., Hebrews 9:23)

Ezekiel's Temple



- A—Outer gates (40:5–16, 20–27)
- B—Inner gates (40:28–37)
- C—Altar (43:13–17)
- D—Temple (40:48–41:11, 15–26)
- E—The Building (41:12–14)
- F—The Galleries (42:1–14)
- G—Priest's chambers (40:44–46)
- H—Chamber of offerings (40:38)
- I—Outer chambers (41:9–10)
- J—Worshiper's chambers (40:17)
- K—Kitchens (46:19–24)
- L—Lower pavement (40:18)
- M—Inner court
- N—Outer court (40:17–19)

Ezekiel's Tour

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| ① 40:1–16 | ⑧ 40:44–46 |
| ② 40:17–19 | ⑨ 40:48–49 |
| ③ 40:20–23 | ⑩ 41:1–4 |
| ④ 40:24–27 | ◆ 42:1–14 |
| ⑤ 40:28–31 | * 46:19–24 |
| ⑥ 40:32–34 | ⑪ 42:15–20 |
| ⑦ 40:35–37 | |

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Twenty-Four: *The Vision of the New Worship*

Lesson Aim: Learn that only the holy may worship God acceptably in His Temple..

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 43:13–44:31

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 40:1–4

Background Texts: Ezekiel 43:26–27; Exodus 27:1–8; 29:15–44; 40:34–35; 2 Samuel 15:13–37; Hebrews 13:9–15; 1 Chronicles 12:23–40; 2 Chronicles 4:1

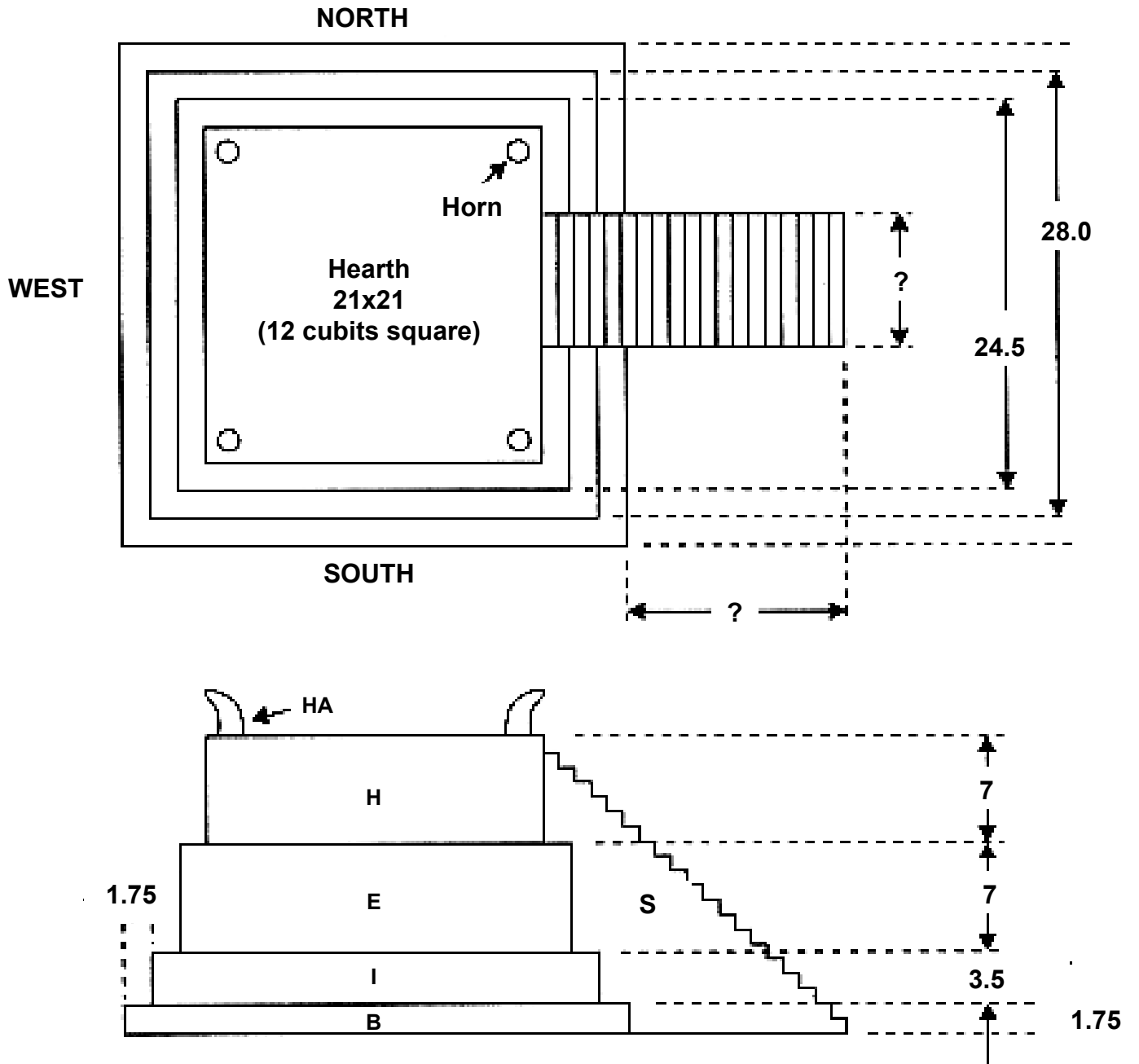
Questions for Discussion

1. Sketch Ezekiel's altar (43:13–17). How does it compare to earlier ones?
2. What family in the priesthood was given the charge of the altar? (43:19) Why choose this family (cf. 44:15; 1 Chronicles 12:28; 2 Samuel 12:32–36)
3. What animals were offered for cleansing this altar? (43:19–26) Is this the same ritual as used in the preparation of the first altar? (Exodus 29:15–44)
4. To whom is the bullock in 43:20–21 analogous? (cf., Hebrews 13:11,12)
5. After the altar was purged seven days what would Jehovah do? (43:21–27)
6. Why close the eastern gate to the Temple? (44:1–2) Who alone could enter and exit by that gate? (44:3) Who does this represent?
7. Why does Ezekiel fall on his face? 44:4, 8; cf., Exodus 40:34–35; 3:6)
8. What warning is given to the nation concerning the new temple? (44:6–8) How had the people and priests broken the covenant regarding the former sanctuary? (44:9–14)
9. Who are the "sons of Zadok"? What were their appointed duties? (44:15–26) What do these duties imply concerning the priesthood?
10. What does God give to the Zadokites? What is the significance of these things?

Question for Thought

What difficulties are immediately apparent if one takes a literal approach to these verses?

Ezekiel's Altar



Dimensions are in feet. 1.75 feet = 1 long cubit.

H = Altar Hearth (43:15–16)

E = Enclosure, supporting higher ledge (43:14, 17)

I = Interior, supporting lower ledge (43:14)

B = Base (43:13)

HA = Horns of the Altar (43:15, 20)

S = Steps (43:17b, cf. 40:47)

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Twenty-Five: *The New People*

Lesson Aim: Learn that Jehovah accepts a holy worship from a holy people.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 45:8-47:12

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 46:10

Background Texts: Zechariah 6:9-15; 13:1-9; Galatians 4:1-11; Colossians 2:8-23;
Hebrews 7:1-8:13; John 4:1-30; 7:37-39; Revelation 22:1-5

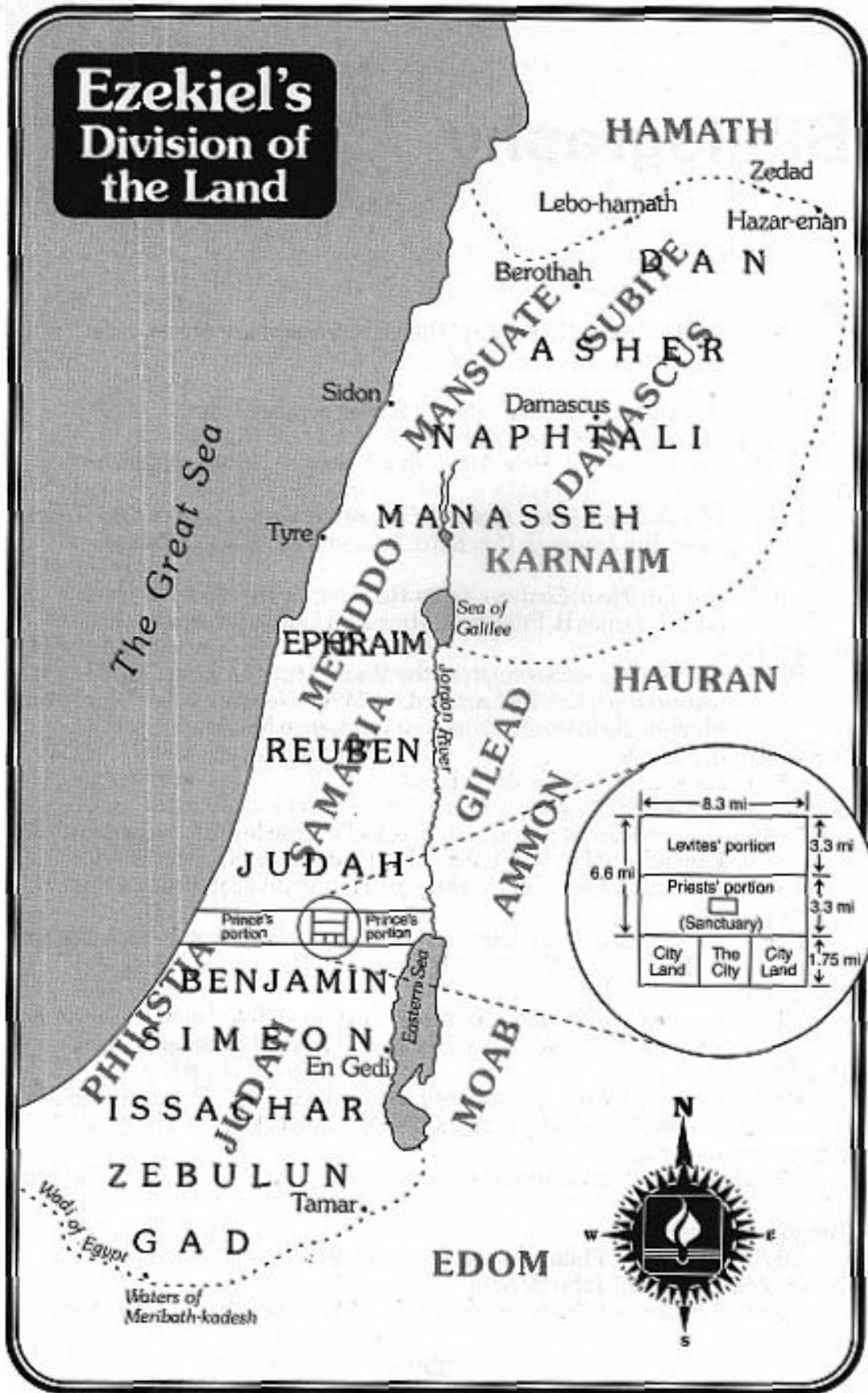
Questions for Discussion

1. What is the significant difference between God's Servant David, the Prince and the former princes of Israel? (45:6-8; 46:16-18)
2. In view of this difference, what admonition does Ezekiel deliver to the ruling princes of Israel? (45:9-12)
3. What must Israel provide for the Prince in the new kingdom? (45:13-16) Why? (45:17)
4. In what special capacity does the Prince function? (45:17b; cf., Hebrews 7:1ff; Zechariah 6:13)
5. What festivals will be observed in the land by the new people of God? (45:18-46:15) What is the significance of these feasts? (Consider: Galatians 4:1-11; Colossians 2:8-23)
6. What flowed out of the Temple complex eastward on the south side of the altar? (47:1-5) What effect did it have upon the land? (47:6-12)
7. What do these waters represent in the vision? Why are they so deep? (cf. Zechariah 13:1-9)
8. Why are some places not healed by the River of Life? (47:11; cf. Revelation 22:4)
9. When did the healing waters begin to flow from the Throne of God? (John 4:14; 7:37-39)
10. State why Israel would become a people acceptable to God when returned to the land?

Question for Thought

What obvious problems does a literal interpretation of these verses present?

Ezekiel's Division of the Land



The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Twenty–Six: *The New Land*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God dwells in the midst of a holy people.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 45:1–8; 47:13–48:35

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 48:35

Background Texts: Genesis 48:1–22; Numbers 34:1–29; Revelation 21:1–27

Questions for Discussion

1. How was the land apportioned for each of the following:
 - (a) The Lord (45:1, 3–4; 48:20)
 - (b) The Temple (45:2; 48:8–9)
 - (c) The Priests (45:3–4; 48:10–12)
 - (d) The Levites (45:5, 48:13–14)
 - (e) Jerusalem, the city (45:6–8; 48:15–20)
 - (f) The Prince (45:6–8; 48:21–22)
 - (g) Dan (48:1)
 - (h) Asher (48:2)
 - (i) Naphtali (48:3)
 - (j) Manasseh (48:4)
 - (k) Ephraim (48:5)
 - (l) Reuben (48:6)
 - (m) Judah (48:7)
 - (n) Benjamin (48:23)
 - (o) Simeon (48:24)
 - (p) Issachar (48:25)
 - (q) Zebulon (48:26)
 - (r) Gad (48:27–28)
2. What are the borders of the new land? (47:13–21) How do these borders compare to the original borders given to Israel? (Numbers 34)
3. Sketch the plan for the New Jerusalem. (cf. 45:6–8; 48:15–20, 30–35)
4. What special provisions regarding the Levites land were made? (48:14)
5. How many portions in the new land did Joseph receive? (48:13) Why? (Genesis 48:5)
6. What is the significance of the apportionment of the land in the manner described? (48:35)

Question for Thought

Compare and contrast Ezekiel's vision of the land and the New Jerusalem with that of John in Revelation 21.