



# Ezekiel

Exile and Restoration

# The Major Prophets

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23. Isaiah The Fifth Gospel

24. Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

25. ---*Lamentations New Every Morning*

26. **Ezekiel** Exile and Restoration

27. Daniel

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- Like **Jeremiah**, the prophet **Ezekiel** was a priest by birth.
- But he didn't serve in the Temple or in Jerusalem.
- His ministry takes place among the captives **in Babylon**.

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- His name “Ezekiel” appears twice in the book, but nowhere else in the Bible.
- It means “Strengthened by God” and the Lord certainly strengthened him for his prophetic ministry.

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- The downfall of Judah and their being led away into exile took place in **several stages**.
- Ezekiel prophesies from Babylon, but much of that is **prior to** the destruction of Jerusalem.

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- Therefore, the early ministry of **Ezekiel** overlaps that of **Jeremiah** who was still in **Jerusalem**.
- His later ministry overlaps that of **Daniel** who served in the government of **Babylon**.

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- Ezekiel **not only spoke** his prophecies, but **often acted them out**, doing little skits or stunts to parallel his messages.
- His book begins and ends with **remarkable visions** –many more scattered in between.
- This type of literature is known as **apocalyptic** – similar to parts of **Isaiah, Daniel** or the **Apocalypse** itself (**Revelation**).

# Ezekiel Exile and Restoration

- His prophecies focus on **three main themes**:
  1. The impending judgment upon Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem.
  2. God's judgment on the Gentile nations.
  3. The future restoration of both Israel and Judah, especially their ultimate restoration at the Second Coming of Christ.

# Ezekiel A Few Details

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- Like John in **Revelation 10**, Ezekiel was commanded to eat a scroll (**Ezekiel 3:1-2**).
- A key phrase in **Ezekiel** is “**Then they (or ‘you’) shall know that I am the Lord,**” which appears over **60 times**.
- God refers to Ezekiel over **90 times** as “**Son of Man**” – the same title Jesus often uses about Himself.

# Ezekiel A Few Details

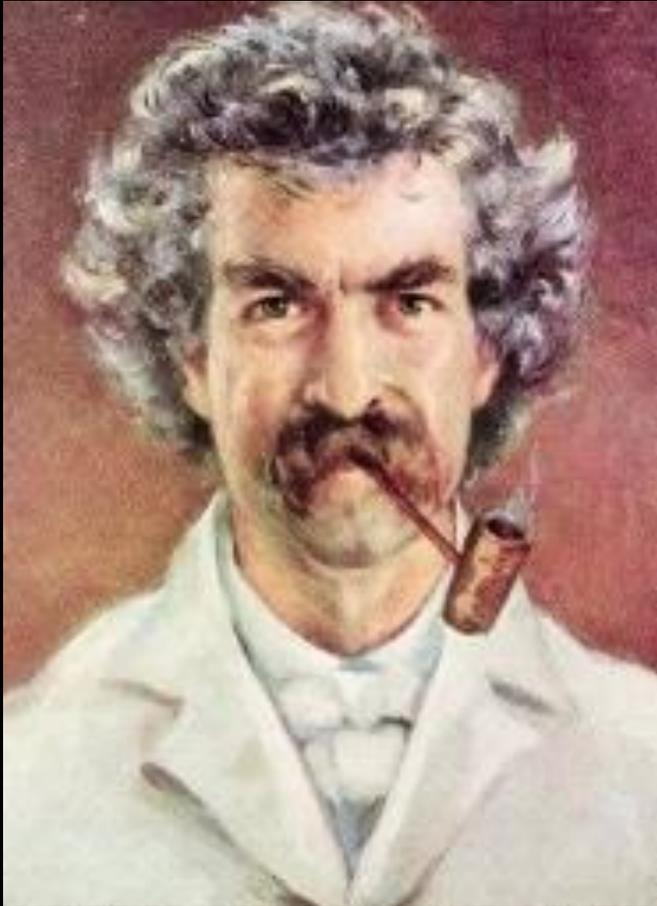
- Ezekiel mentions the prophet **Daniel** by name three times in this book (**14:14, 14:20, 28:3**).
- **Ezekiel** is mentioned nowhere else in the Bible.
- **Ezekiel** and **Isaiah** both give us insight into **the fall of Satan** (**Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28**).
- This is mentioned by Jesus in **Luke 10:18**.

# Ezekiel A Few Details

- He refers to the **Holy Spirit** at least **15 times**.
- **Seven times** we read that “**the hand of the Lord**” was upon the prophet.

# Ezekiel Restoration

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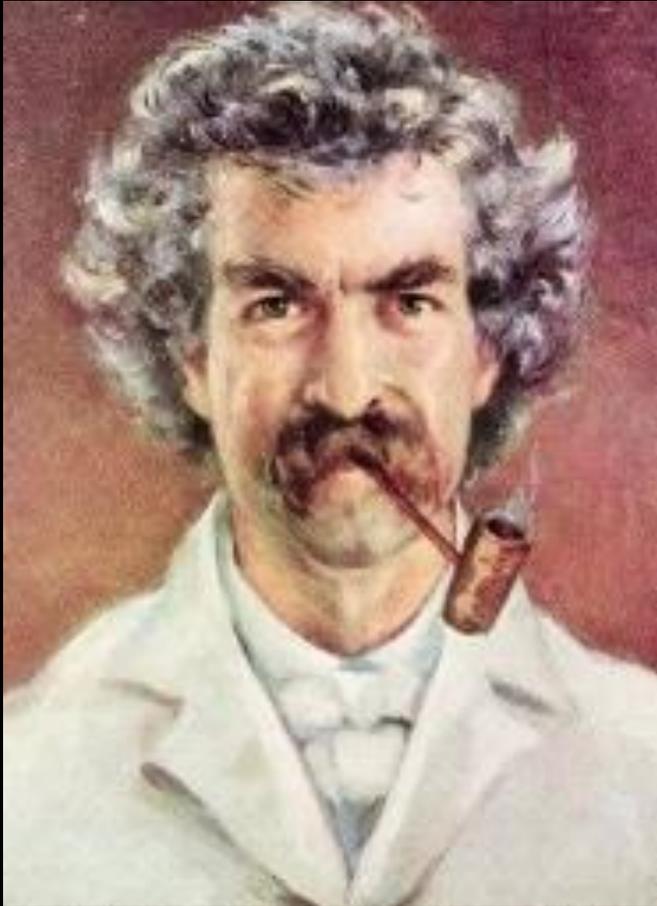


- In his travelogue entitled *Innocents Abroad*, Mark Twain (1835 – 1910) quotes from **Leviticus 26:32-33** (KJV).

**32** And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

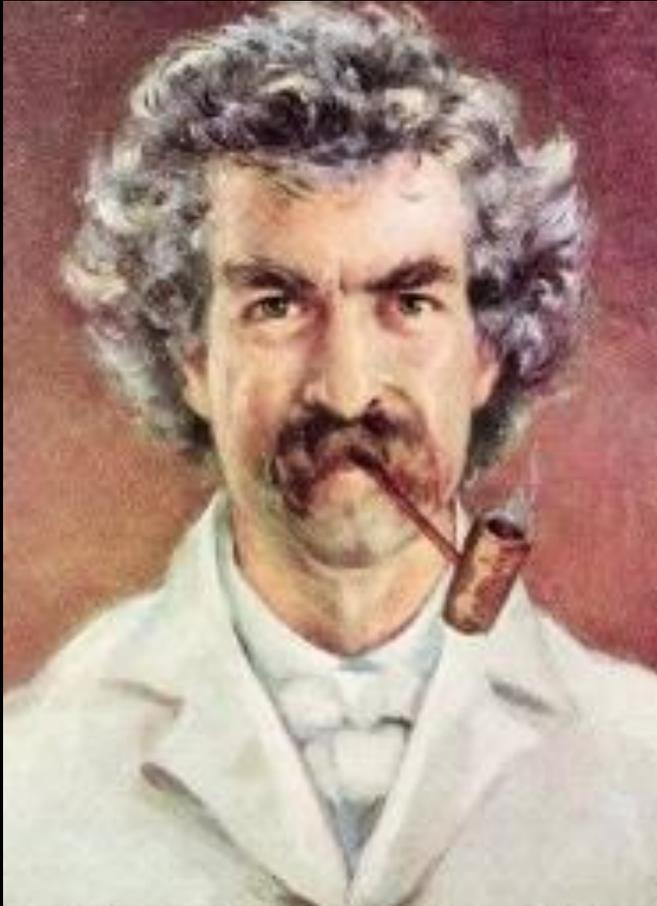
**33** And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

# Ezekiel Restoration



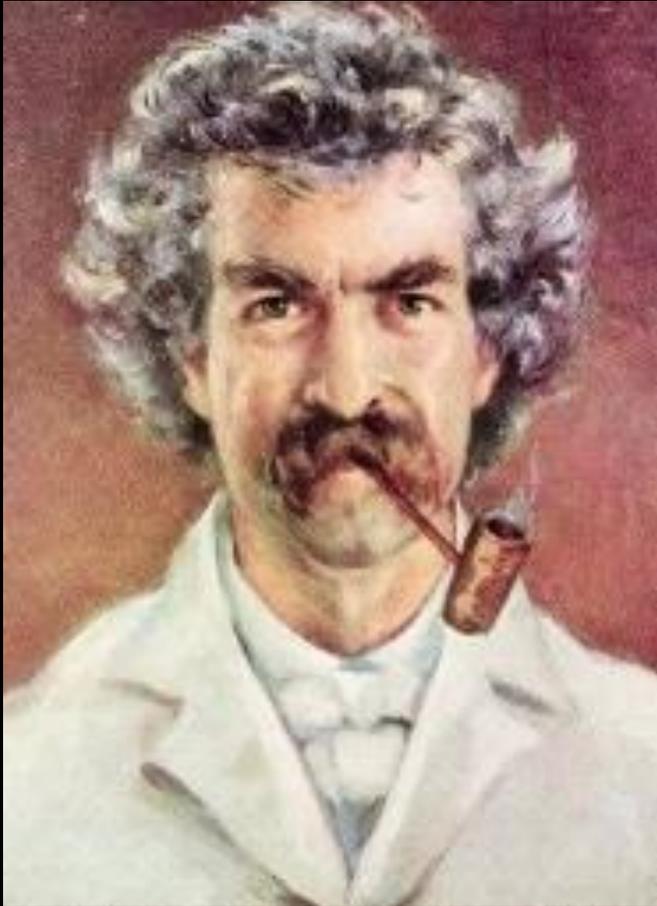
- He then follows it up with commentary, *No man can stand here ... and say the prophecy has not been fulfilled ... the grass ought to be sparkling with dew, the flowers enriching the air with their fragrance, and the birds singing in the trees. But alas! There is no dew here, nor flowers, nor birds, nor trees. There is a plain and unshaded lake, and beyond ... some barren mountains ...*

# Ezekiel Restoration



*We traversed some miles of desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given wholly over to weeds – a silent mournful expanse, wherein we saw only three persons – Arabs, with nothing on but a long course shirt ... Part of the ground we came over was not ground at all, but rocks – cream colored rocks, worn smooth as if by water ... among which the uncouth imitation of skulls was frequent ...*

# Ezekiel Restoration



- Now in Jerusalem:

*Rags, wretchedness, poverty, and dirt ... abound. Lepers, cripples, the blind, and the idiotic, assail you on every hand ... Jerusalem is mournful and dreary, and lifeless. I would not desire to live here.*

# Ezekiel Restoration

## The Future Restoration of Israel

- More than 2000 years before Mark Twain, in exile with his people, Ezekiel reminds them of God's promise.
- They will return and dwell in their own land once more.

# Ezekiel Restoration

## The Future Restoration of Israel

- Let's read **Ezekiel 36:22-36**.
- This passage is a clear promise to restore the nation both physically and spiritually.
  - (According to the **Mashov Group**, Israel now annually exports well **over \$2 billion** worth of produce and processed food.)

# Ezekiel Restoration

## The Future Restoration of Israel

- Ezekiel 37
- This chapter gives us Ezekiel's vision of the **Valley of Dry Bones**, and the **Message of the Two Sticks**.
- Both of these are central to our understanding of the restoration of Israel.

# Ezekiel Restoration

## The Future Restoration of Israel

- An important prediction is found in **Ezekiel 43:1-9** where the **glory of the Lord** returns to a new Temple in Jerusalem.
- Ezekiel witnessed the glory departing in his earlier visions.  
(See **Ezekiel 10 & 11**)

# Ezekiel Restoration

## The Future Restoration of Israel

- The physical restoration of has perhaps already begun.
- The land is certainly much different now from the way Mark Twain described over 100 years ago.
- The spiritual restoration is still future.

# Ezekiel Conclusions

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- As God was in the process of sending his people into exile, he was already speaking of their restoration.
- Their suffering was real, their exile was long, and generations lived and died without a hint that it would come to an end.

# Ezekiel Conclusions

- But it now seems quite realistic that such prophecies might come to pass.
- A descendant of David has come and the nations now worship him – the one who died to save us.

# Ezekiel    Conclusions

- Like Israel, we may be in need of restoration – a spiritual, if not physical, revival.
- Jesus desires to continually refresh his church.
- Early in the book of **Acts**, Peter declares the following words in Jerusalem.

# Ezekiel Conclusions

- Acts 3:19-21 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,<sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

# Ezekiel Conclusions

- Let's end with a prayer of repentance, and for revival, refreshing and restoration.