

Some questions that arise in the Study of Ezekiel are these:  
How do Ezekiel's visions of God relate to Babylonian and Assyrian statues and images? Does God condone their idols? How are Ezekiel's symbolic actions to be interpreted (4-5)? About whom is the Lord speaking in chapter 28? Was Ezekiel actually taken to Jerusalem or is this a figure of speech? If so, how is it to be explained?

In classical expression Raphael (1483-1520) painted "The Vision of Ezekiel" in the Pitti Palace, Florence, based on Ezekiel 1. Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones clothed with flesh is interpreted in a third century AD fresco in the Dura-Europos synagogue. It may be that there are so few classics drawn from the pages of Ezekiel because of the obscurity and difficulty of much of his imagery. And then, too, there are the songs such as "Them bones will rise again..." not classical, I suppose, but popular.

Further study will show just a few good books on Ezekiel.. the difficulty in interpretation seeming to turn writers away. Taylor, J.B. EZEKIEL (IVP) is a brief, helpful commentary and Ellison, H.L. EZEKIEL, THE MAN AND HIS MESSAGE is also helpful particularly with introductory problems. Most of the Biblical introduction books including Harrison, R.K. INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT (Eerdmans) have lengthy sections on Ezekiel.

Try reading about the exile in a Bible encyclopaedia or dictionary. Do the same for Babylonia, Assyria and Chebar. Compare Ezekiel's imagery to that of Revelation. How does John seem to use and adapt Ezekiel's experience and ideas?

b. A content study outline of Ezekiel:

Although there are outlines in the hundreds, I am not using an original one at this point but an old one by Wilhem Moller...one that I have liked and think appropriate for a study guide as it breaks the work in chapter 33 with the fall of Jerusalem.

- I. The Book of Judgments 1-33
  - A. With regard to the Hebrew peoples:
    1. The commission and the roll 1:1-3:14
    2. The depictions of judgment 3:15-7:27
    3. Imageries of sin and rebellion 8:1-19:14
    4. A catalogue of sins 20:1-23:49
    5. The judgment of Jerusalem 24
  - B. Oracles on the nations surrounding 25-33
    1. Ammon 25:1-7
    2. Moab 25:8-11
    3. Edom 25:12-14
    4. Philistia 25:15-17
    5. Tyre 26:1-28:19
    6. Sidon 28:20 - 26
    7. Egypt 29:1-32
  - C. The response of the faithful watchman 33
- II. The Book of Promise 34-48
  - A. The restoration of the nation
    1. The true shepherd 34
    2. The triumph over Edom 35