



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 36, Day 1 --- Ezekiel 22-23

Week 36, Day 2 --- Ezekiel 24-27

Week 36, Day 3 --- Ezekiel 28-31

Week 36, Day 4 --- Ezekiel 32-34

Week 36, Day 5 --- Ezekiel 35-37

Week 36, Day 6 --- Ezekiel 38-39

Week 36, Day 7 --- Ezekiel 40-41

Week 36, Day 1 --- Ezekiel 22-23

Week 36, Day 2 --- Ezekiel 24-27

There are two pictures in today's reading. The people of Israel were supposed to love God more than they loved Jerusalem and the temple. They had gotten this reversed. They loved and worshipped the temple and the city where it was. At best they ignored God, and at worst they rebelled against Him by worshipping idols and doing all sorts of evil in the temple and the city. God is telling the exiles that if they mourn for the city and the temple they will be demonstrating that they also still love God less than they love their former city. I cannot imagine what I will feel like when my wife dies. This must have been very hard for Ezekiel and only His deep love for God brought him through.

Tyre was a very famous city. It was a trading city on the seacoast. There was a settlement on land and the castle for the king was built on an island a short distance from the shore. It was thought that the castle could not be defeated because of the water protecting it. When Nebuchadnezzar came to defeat the city he quickly wiped out the town on the shore and then he had his soldiers take the rocks on the shore and used them to build a walkway out to the island. The island was easily captured and the shoreline became a bare rock because everything on it had been stripped away to be used to build the walkway. God may have been angry with Jerusalem, but He was still protecting it.

Week 36, Day 3 --- Ezekiel 28-31

The history of Israel and the history of Egypt are intertwined. Today it is hard to imagine how powerful Egypt was at this time. The people of Egypt accomplished things, like the pyramids, that no other civilization could even imagine. Their downfall was that they never recognized the God of Israel as God. If you were the ruler of a nation, what would be the worst thing you could do in the eyes of God?

God is preparing this part of the world for a very special event. It is hard to see with all the prophecies of destruction, but God is actually building something. He is preparing the world for Jesus to come.

Week 36, Day 4 --- Ezekiel 32-34

There are two vivid images in today's reading. The first is of the watchman. In the days before electronics the only way to know an enemy was coming was for someone to keep watch from the highest point in the city. What would happen to the city if the watchman was distracted and not watching? Even worse, what would happen to the city if the watchman saw destruction coming and did

not tell anyone? I don't like this passage because I have been guilty too many times of not warning someone of coming destruction.

I like the second image better. It is the image of a shepherd. A shepherd cares for his sheep. The shepherd to come is called David in this passage, but who do think Ezekiel might be talking about?

#### Week 36, Day 5 --- Ezekiel 35-37

The first two chapters repeat a message that has been prophesied many times. The nations that have tormented Israel will be punished and Israel will be destroyed. You can probably identify more with how Israel feels than I can. The people are once again slaves in captivity and they feel like they are dead. They are powerless to return to their own land. I hope you have hope. They have no hope and Ezekiel's task is to bring them hope. God is able to bring the dead back to life. What would happen to you if you could not breathe? The most powerful way God communicates who He is, is through the concept of breath or wind. God is life and without Him we are dead.

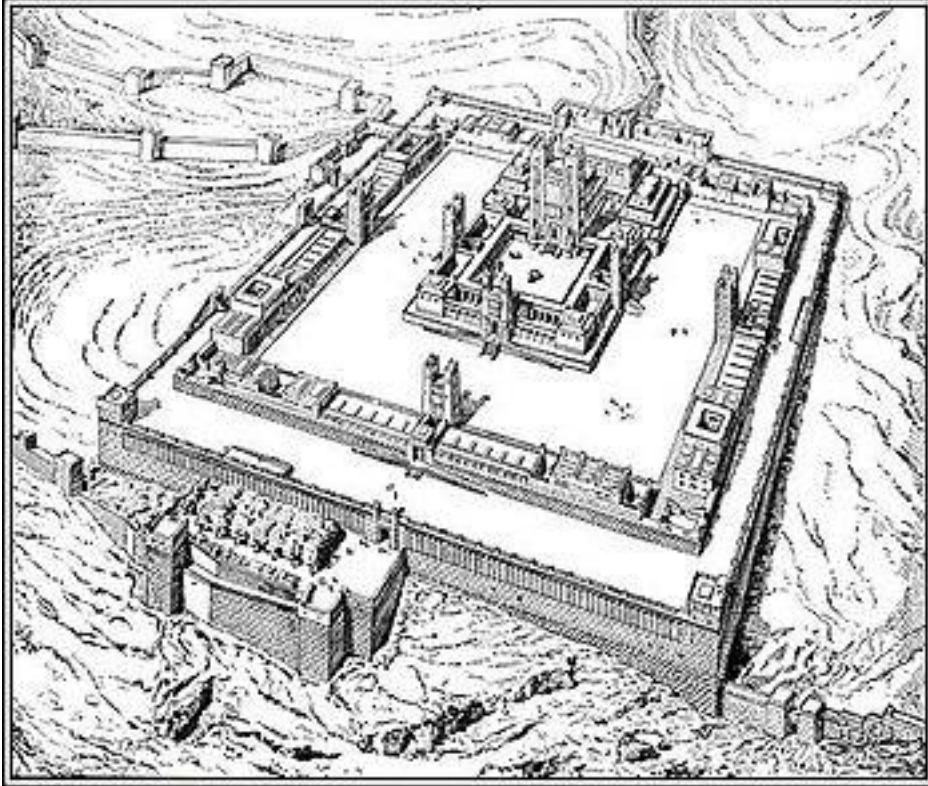
One of the things you've probably noticed is the promise that Israel will one day be restored. There are many opinions on how to interpret this prophecy. Some think these prophecies, including the one in chapter 37, speak of the first coming of Jesus with the day of Pentecost being the time when all of Israel is brought together from throughout the nations of the world. Some think the prophecies speak of a future time when Jesus will return to earth and reign on earth in a restored Israel for 1000 years. Finally, some think that these prophecies speak of heaven. One day we'll know for certain and there will be no more questions. For now I'm glad that we have hope in Jesus for an eternal future with God.

#### Week 36, Day 6 --- Ezekiel 38-39

The peoples and battle spoken of in these chapters is repeated in the book of Revelation 20:7-9. Since this event has not yet occurred, and it would be hard to miss in history, it is yet to come. God continually tells us through the prophets that there will come a time when everyone will recognize that God exists and that He is as mighty and holy as He has been described by His people. God also promises that He will raise up His people and that they will no longer be defeated. This is a great message of hope for a people in captivity who have been beaten down by many different enemies over centuries.

#### Week 36, Day 7 --- Ezekiel 40-41

Today begins one of the most mysterious portions of the Old Testament. Ezekiel sees a vision of a new temple. As far as anyone knows this temple has never yet been built. For this reason it is impossible to know whether or not God is showing Ezekiel a real physical temple or an image that represents something else. The description is very complex. A cubit is between 18 and 24 inches. It was the distance between the King's extended finger tips and his elbow. Many people have attempted to build models of this temple. Here is one picture.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Secondtempleplan.jpg>