

# Listening Guide

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## **I. Apocalyptic Literature**

### **A. Introduction**

[1] What is apocalyptic literature?

### **B. Symbolic in Nature**

[2] What two symbols are frequently used in apocalyptic literature?

### **C. Provides Encouragement**

[3] What Did Dr. Stuart present as a purpose of apocalyptic literature?

[4] Why did Ezekiel's prophecies include encouragement?

[5] How did Ezekiel encourage the people he preached to?

**D. Visionary**

[6] What is the important part of a vision?

[7] Why is that part important?

**E. Angelic Interpretation**

[8] Who explained or interpreted Ezekiel's visions to him?

**II. Major Themes**

**A. Give Up False Hopes**

[9] Briefly describe the political conditions in which Ezekiel ministered.

[10] What was Ezekiel's message?

[11] Why was it necessary to preach against false hope?

[12] What were Judah's people hoping in?

**B. Advisor to Community in Exile**

[13] What was the major question people had for Ezekiel?

**C. Universal Divine Sovereignty**

[14] Why did Ezekiel preach about divine sovereignty?

[15] What happened to Ezekiel in chapter 25?

**D. Individual Responsibility**

[16] Why did Ezekiel preach about individual responsibility?

### **E. Prophet of Unification**

[17] What purpose does Ezekiel's emphasis on unity play today?

### **F. Fulfillment of God's Word and Transformations**

[18] What emphasis did Dr. Stuart place on Ezekiel's certainty?

[19] What was essential for the good things to come?

[20] Why is Ezekiel's vision of Jerusalem and Judah so different from their actual appearance in his time?

[21] What is recorded in Ezekiel 10?

[22] What did that record mean?

### **G. Presence of God**

[23] According to Ezekiel 43, when will God's glory return?

[24] What does that look like in our day?

### **III. Structure of the Book**

[25] Into how many blocks of material is Ezekiel organized?

#### **A. Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah (1:1–24:27)**

[26] What period of time in Judah's history is discussed in chapters 1–24?

#### **B. Oracles Against Foreign Nations (25:1–32:32)**

[27] What is the message to Israel in these "oracles against foreign nations"?

### **C. Hope Offered (33:1–39:29)**

[28] In spite of the fact that these chapters deal with life after Jerusalem’s destruction, how did Ezekiel focus on God?

### **D. Visions of the Future (40:1–48:35)**

[29] What three things are especially addressed in these visions about the future?

[30] What is symbolized in these visions of the future?

## **IV. Major Topics**

### **A. Continuity of History**

[31] What did Dr. Stuart mean by “Israel is a continuum”?

[32] How did Dr. Stuart relate the fact that Israel is a continuum to the idea that preaching a message of future hope should encourage people in difficult situations?

## **B. Prophetic Lament Form**

[33] What does Ezekiel's lament form resemble?

[34] Who is the "someone" in Ezekiel's laments?

[35] Who was the lion captured by Nebuchadnezzar?

[36] Who is the vine in the vineyard?

[37] What was the point of planting the vine in the desert?

## **C. Valley of the Dry Bones**

[38] What is the hope of Ezekiel's book dramatized in the valley of dry bones?

## **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

## **Application**

Ezekiel preached about a future hope in order to give current hope to people living in exile and distress. Peter used the same technique of focusing on God's glorious future to give hope to struggling people (1 Peter 1:1–6). How real is your vision of God's future inheritance? When your current situation is hard to bear, is your hope for the future strong enough to give you comfort and perspective about the present? Meditating on 1 Peter 1:1–6 is an excellent way to deepen the hope-giving reality of God's promises for our future.