

Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 12, Three Unforgettable Days (Ezek 24:1-27) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 12, Three Unforgettable Days (Ezek 24:1-27), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Allen's lecture focuses on Ezekiel 24:1-27, specifically the "Three Unforgettable Days" in Ezekiel's life. The lecture dissects the significance of the siege of Jerusalem, marked by a specific date reminiscent of 2 Kings. It explores Ezekiel's use of the cooking pot metaphor to represent Jerusalem's fate and the exile's dire situation. A key event is Ezekiel's wife's sudden death and God's instruction for him not to mourn publicly, symbolizing the overwhelming grief and collapse of societal norms to come. The lecture concludes with the promise of Ezekiel's renewed voice after Jerusalem's fall, signaling a transition from judgment to a message of salvation, highlighting a key difference in the editions of the book.

2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 12 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Ezekiel).



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on12.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 12, Three Unforgettable Days (Ezek 24:1-27)

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Leslie Allen's Lecture 12 on Ezekiel 24:1-27, "Three Unforgettable Days."

Briefing Document: Ezekiel 24 - Three Unforgettable Days

Main Theme: Ezekiel 24 marks the end of the first major section of the book, transitioning from prophecies of doom and judgment to a future message of salvation. The chapter focuses on three significant days in Ezekiel's life and ministry, all related to the siege and fall of Jerusalem. The lecture explores the symbolic actions Ezekiel is commanded to perform and their meaning for the exiles in Babylon.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Three Unforgettable Days:** The chapter revolves around three distinct days in Ezekiel's life:
- **Day 1: The Beginning of the Siege (Ezekiel 24:1-2, January 588 BC):** God informs Ezekiel of the start of the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem. This is a pivotal moment, "the beginning of the end" for the exiles' hopes of returning home. This date, the lecturer notes, appears to be borrowed from 2 Kings 25:1. "Mortal, write down the name of this day, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day."
- **Day 2: The Death of Ezekiel's Wife (Ezekiel 24:15-18):** God tells Ezekiel that his wife, "the delight of your eyes," will die suddenly, and he is forbidden from engaging in normal mourning rituals. This serves as a symbolic act prefiguring the overwhelming grief and societal breakdown that will occur with the fall of Jerusalem. "With one blow, I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Your wife is going to die."
- **Day 3: The Arrival of a Refugee (Ezekiel 24:25-27):** A refugee from Jerusalem will arrive in Babylon with news of the city's fall. This event will mark the end of Ezekiel's ministry of doom and the beginning of a new phase where he can speak a message of salvation. "On that day your mouth shall be opened to the one who has escaped, and you shall speak and no longer be silent."

- **The Cooking Pot Metaphor (Ezekiel 24:3-14):** God uses the extended metaphor of a rusty cooking pot to represent Jerusalem and the impending siege.
- The pot symbolizes Jerusalem.
- The meat and bones within the pot represent the inhabitants of Jerusalem, including its VIPs. "Jerusalem's VIPs are going to be there, locked up behind the walls of Jerusalem. And the royal family of Zedekiah, the royal administration, and other socially important people."
- The fire represents the Babylonian siege. Nebuchadnezzar is essentially being commanded, through this metaphor, to carry out the siege.
- The rust/corrosion represents the city's bloodshed and moral corruption. "Woe to the bloody city, the pot whose rust is in it, whose rust is not gone out of it." It reflects the city's failure to value human life.
- The cleansing of the pot signifies the destruction and deportation that will occur.
- **Ezekiel as a Sign:** Ezekiel's actions and experiences serve as a sign to the exiles in Babylon.
- His lack of mourning signifies the overwhelming grief that will paralyze the exiles when they hear of Jerusalem's fall, preventing them from even performing customary mourning rituals. "Ezekiel shall be a sign to you. You shall do just as he has done. And when this comes. you shall know that I. Am the Lord God."
- His eventual restored speech symbolizes the coming message of hope and salvation.
- **Judgment and Salvation:** The lecture emphasizes the shift from judgment to salvation that occurs in the book of Ezekiel. The first half focuses on judgment for the sins of Judah, while the second half looks forward to restoration and a new covenant. The lecturer describes this with the concepts of "Judgment with a capital J" and "judgment with a small j" noting that in the New Testament, "we are saved from that judgment and moving into a new era of salvation. "
- **The Importance of Remembering:** Even in the context of future salvation, the exiles are called to remember their past sins and the reasons for their exile. This remembrance is essential for appreciating God's grace and avoiding repeating past mistakes. "Then when you've gone back to the land. You shall remember your evil ways and your dealings that were not good. You shall loathe yourself for your iniquities and your abominable deeds."

- **Ezekiel's Changing Ministry:** The arrival of the refugee with news of Jerusalem's fall marks a turning point in Ezekiel's ministry. He will no longer be confined to prophesying doom but will be able to speak a message of hope and restoration.

Conclusion: Ezekiel 24 is a pivotal chapter that serves as a transition point in the book of Ezekiel. Through symbolic actions and vivid metaphors, it foreshadows the devastating fall of Jerusalem and the overwhelming grief of the exiles while simultaneously hinting at a future message of hope and restoration.

4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 12, Three Unforgettable Days (Ezek 24:1-27)

Ezekiel 24:1-27 Study Guide: Three Unforgettable Days

Review of Key Concepts

- **The Significance of Dates:** Understand the importance of the date mentioned in Ezekiel 24:1 and how it relates to the siege of Jerusalem.
- **Ezekiel as a Sign:** Analyze how Ezekiel's actions and experiences serve as a symbolic representation for the exiles in Babylon. Distinguish between Ezekiel as a sign of judgment versus a sign of grace.
- **The Cooking Pot Metaphor:** Explain the meaning and symbolism of the cooking pot metaphor in Ezekiel 24:3-14, including the interpretation of the pot, the meat, the rust, and the fire.
- **Mourning Rituals and Their Absence:** Describe the typical mourning rituals in ancient Israel and explain why Ezekiel was commanded to refrain from these practices after his wife's death.
- **Judgment and Salvation:** Distinguish between the two types of judgment as referenced in the text, and understand how the book transitions from a message of judgment to a message of hope and salvation.

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. What is the date mentioned in Ezekiel 24:1, and what historical event does it represent?
2. Explain the significance of Ezekiel being told to write down the name of the day in Ezekiel 24:2.
3. In the cooking pot metaphor, what do the "good pieces, the thigh, and the shoulder" represent?
4. What does the rust on the cooking pot symbolize, and how is it connected to the "bloody city"?
5. Why was Ezekiel commanded not to mourn or weep after his wife's death, and what symbolic purpose did this serve?

6. According to Ezekiel 24, what will happen when the exiles hear about the fall of Jerusalem?
7. What will mark the end of Ezekiel's ministry concerning judgment and destruction?
8. How does Ezekiel's role as a sign shift from Ezekiel 24:24 to Ezekiel 24:27?
9. Why is it important for the exiles to remember their past history in Jerusalem, including their sins and transgressions?
10. How does the New Testament use the concept of judgement with a small j and a need for remembering one's past?

Quiz: Answer Key

1. The date mentioned is the ninth year, tenth month, tenth day, representing January 588 BC in our chronology, and it signifies the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army.
2. It was a "red letter day" of the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem and a confirmation to Ezekiel that his earlier prophecies were coming true.
3. The "good pieces, the thigh, and the shoulder" represent the VIPs of Jerusalem, such as the royal family of Zedekiah, the royal administration, and other socially important people, who are trapped within the city during the siege.
4. The rust on the cooking pot symbolizes the bloodshed and violence committed by the people of Jerusalem, particularly their leaders, who failed to protect human life and engaged in unjust killings.
5. Ezekiel was commanded not to mourn to symbolize the overwhelming grief and apathy that would overcome the exiles when they heard about the destruction of Jerusalem, making them unable to perform normal mourning rituals.
6. According to Ezekiel 24, they will collapse in apathy, overwhelmed by their grief and too stunned to carry out the normal cultural customs of mourning.
7. Ezekiel's ministry concerning judgment and destruction will end when someone who has escaped from Jerusalem arrives in Babylonia with news of the city's fall.
8. In Ezekiel 24:24, Ezekiel is a sign of God's judgment and its consequences, while in Ezekiel 24:27, he becomes a sign of God's grace and its consequences as his mouth is opened to speak words of comfort and hope.

9. Remembering their past history helps them appreciate God's grace, avoid repeating their sins, and honor God by living righteously in the future.
10. Paul warns his Christian readers that they must appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Additionally, the need for shame as Christians look back upon their past to not forget those shameful things.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the effectiveness of the cooking pot metaphor in Ezekiel 24:3-14 as a means of conveying God's message to the exiles in Babylon.
2. Discuss the significance of Ezekiel's personal tragedy (the death of his wife) in the context of his prophetic ministry and the impending fall of Jerusalem.
3. Compare and contrast Ezekiel's role as a sign of judgment (Ezekiel 24:24) and a sign of grace (Ezekiel 24:27), and explain how this transition reflects the broader themes of the book.
4. Explore the relationship between memory, repentance, and restoration in Ezekiel, and discuss how the prophet calls on the exiles to confront their past as a means of securing a better future.
5. Examine the two different kinds of judgment as applied in the Old and New Testaments, and how Ezekiel looks forward to the transition.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Siege of Jerusalem:** The military blockade of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army, which began in 588 BC and ultimately led to the city's fall in 587 BC.
- **Exiles (of 597):** The VIPs of Judah who were deported to Babylon in 597 BC following an earlier revolt against Babylonian rule. Also referred to as "prisoners of war" and "hostages."
- **Ezekiel:** A prophet and priest who was exiled to Babylon in 597 BC and delivered messages of judgment and hope to the Jewish exiles.
- **Cooking Pot Metaphor:** An extended metaphor in Ezekiel 24:3-14, where Jerusalem is likened to a cooking pot filled with meat and bones, symbolizing the city's impending destruction and the fate of its inhabitants.
- **Rust (Corrosion):** In the cooking pot metaphor, the rust represents the bloodshed and violence committed by the people of Jerusalem, which defiled the city and called for divine judgment.
- **Symbolic Action:** Actions performed by Ezekiel that had a deeper meaning and served as a prophetic sign to the exiles, such as his refraining from mourning rituals after his wife's death.
- **The Delight of Your Eyes:** A reference to Ezekiel's wife, whose sudden death served as a symbolic representation of the loss and devastation that would befall the exiles.
- **Sign:** In the context of Ezekiel, a person or event that serves as a symbolic representation of God's message, either of judgment or of hope.
- **Judgment (Capital J):** The wrath of God that rests upon all. The judgement of God that rests upon all, where one does not bear the judgment.
- **Judgment (Small j):** This is where Christians DO bear the judgment. Recompense for what has been done in the body whether good or evil.
- **Ministry of Doom:** The first part of Ezekiel, up to chapter 24, where the prophet delivers messages of judgment and destruction against Jerusalem and Judah.
- **Post 587:** A group of messages after the destruction of Jerusalem. They show the great need to not forget what happened as a warning against turning against God again.

5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 12, Three Unforgettable Days (Ezek 24:1-27), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about Ezekiel 24:1-27

1. What are the "Three Unforgettable Days" referenced in Ezekiel 24?

Ezekiel 24 highlights three significant days in Ezekiel's life and ministry. The first is the day the siege of Jerusalem began, specifically the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year (likely January 588 BC). The second day is the day Ezekiel's wife dies. The third day is the day a survivor from Jerusalem arrives in Babylon with news of the city's fall.

2. Why is the date of Jerusalem's siege important, and what is unique about how it's presented in Ezekiel?

The date, taken from 2 Kings 25:1, marks the beginning of the end for Jerusalem and Judah. It signifies the start of a long and devastating siege by the Babylonian army, confirming Ezekiel's prophecies of judgment. The way the date is presented is unique because it mimics the style of 2 Kings rather than Ezekiel's typical chronological references. This suggests a later addition, perhaps to emphasize the historical connection and weight of the event.

3. What is the symbolism of the cooking pot in Ezekiel 24?

The cooking pot serves as an extended metaphor for the siege of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar is metaphorically ordered to "set on the pot" to initiate the siege and Jerusalem's inhabitants are the "good pieces" of meat and choice bones. The VIPs of Jerusalem, including the royal family, are also included in the pot, symbolizing their entrapment and impending suffering within the besieged city. The fire beneath the pot represents the intense heat and pressure of the siege.

4. What does the rust or corrosion on the cooking pot represent?

The rust symbolizes the bloodshed and moral corruption within Jerusalem. The city's leaders and citizens failed to safeguard the sacredness of human life, resulting in a "bloody city." The corrosion, likened to bloodstains, represents the blatant and unaddressed sins of Jerusalem, calling for divine judgment and cleansing, although this cleansing is purely negative.

5. Why is Ezekiel commanded not to mourn his wife's death, and what does this symbolize?

Ezekiel's lack of mourning is a symbolic act representing the overwhelming grief and apathy that will grip the exiles upon hearing of Jerusalem's fall. The normal customs and expressions of mourning will be absent due to the sheer devastation and loss. It also highlights the breakdown of societal norms and the unparalleled disaster that is about to befall the Judean people.

6. How is Ezekiel a "sign" to the exiles, and what does this signify about God's judgment and grace?

Ezekiel is a sign to the exiles in two ways. Initially, his lack of mourning serves as a sign of God's judgment and the devastating consequences of Jerusalem's fall. Later, his restored voice and renewed message become a sign of God's grace and the coming salvation. This dual role reflects the two phases of Ezekiel's ministry: a message of doom followed by a message of hope and restoration.

7. What is the significance of Ezekiel's being struck mute and then having his mouth opened again?

Ezekiel being struck mute symbolized the period of judgment and the silencing of prophetic voices due to Judah's disobedience. His mouth being opened again on the day the survivor arrives with news of Jerusalem's fall signifies the end of that ministry of doom and the beginning of a new phase focused on hope and restoration. It marks a transition from judgment to a message of salvation.

8. How does the concept of "remembering" the past relate to both judgment and future hope for the exiles?

The exiles are urged to "remember" their past sins and the reasons for God's judgment. This remembrance is not meant to be solely focused on guilt and shame but to foster a healthy appreciation for God's grace and a determination to avoid repeating past mistakes. By remembering their evil ways, the exiles can better understand God's judgment and embrace the hope of a restored relationship with Him, thus honoring God.