

## **Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 24, Ezekiel in Relation to the New Testament Resources from NotebookLM**

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

### **1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 24, Ezekiel in Relation to the New Testament, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Dr. Allen's lecture explores the intricate relationship between the book of Ezekiel and the New Testament. He highlights how New Testament writers drew upon Ezekiel, both through direct quotations and subtle allusions. The lecture identifies key themes, including Jesus as the Messianic king, God's covenant, the gift of the Spirit, and the inclusion of nations, demonstrating how the New Testament fulfills prophecies found in Ezekiel. Furthermore, it examines distinctive Ezekiel themes like sanctifying God's name, the role of shame, and the importance of judgment, tracing their reflections in the New Testament. Finally, the lecture addresses the significant influence of Ezekiel on the Book of Revelation, while also acknowledging areas of discontinuity and adaptation in the New Testament's interpretation of Ezekiel's prophecies.

**2. 36 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 24 – 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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on24.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 24, Ezekiel in Relation to the New Testament

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided lecture excerpts by Dr. Leslie Allen on Ezekiel and its relationship to the New Testament:

#### Briefing Document: Ezekiel and the New Testament

**Main Theme:** The lecture explores the complex relationship between the Old Testament book of Ezekiel and the New Testament, arguing for both continuity and discontinuity. While Ezekiel is an "alien book" to modern Western Christians, understanding its connections to the New Testament is crucial for a deeper appreciation of both.

#### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Family Ancestry Analogy:** Dr. Allen uses the analogy of tracing family roots to understand the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Paul in 1 Corinthians 10 and Romans 4 considered Old Testament figures like the Israelites in the wilderness and Abraham as "our ancestors," establishing a spiritual kinship even for Gentile believers. "We all, he says, have a kinship with them and they're part of the family of God and his people, just as we are."
- **Frequency and Significance of Ezekiel in the New Testament:** While there are few *formal* quotations from Ezekiel in the New Testament (only two), there are *numerous* (139 according to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament index) *verbal allusions*. While some are purely literary, many have "a deeper intention" and are "deliberate and spiritually meaningful."
- **Ezekiel's Two Eras:** Ezekiel, like other prophetic books, deals with "two eras: an era of radical judgment upon Israel and a coming era of salvation." The New Testament picks up on the salvation aspects of this pattern, presenting its message as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

1. **Four Key Prophetic Themes Fulfilled in the New Testament: Jesus as Messianic King:** Ezekiel looked forward to a restored Davidic kingship characterized by justice and righteousness (Ezekiel 34, 37). The New Testament presents Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy. John 10 uses the shepherd metaphor, linking it to kingship and referencing Ezekiel 37 ("one flock and one shepherd"). Luke 19:10 ("The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost") alludes to Ezekiel 34:11,16 ("I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. I will seek the lost"). The parable of the mustard seed in Mark 4:32 alludes to the new shoot in Ezekiel 17:23, growing into a magnificent cedar.
2. **God's Covenant with His People:** The New Testament borrows covenant language from Ezekiel. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 quotes Ezekiel 37:27 ("I will be their God and they shall be my people.") Hebrews 13:20 refers to the "eternal covenant," drawing from Ezekiel 37:26 ("the everlasting covenant").
3. **The Gift of God's Spirit:** The New Testament draws on Ezekiel 36:26-27 ("I will put my spirit upon you") and Ezekiel 11 for the promise of the Spirit. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:8 refers to "God who gives his Holy Spirit to you." 2 Corinthians 3 uses the metaphor of "hearts of flesh" (Ezekiel 36) versus "tablets of stone," contrasting the law with the Spirit. Hebrews also draws on Ezekiel 36, referencing the sprinkling of clean water for cleansing (Ezekiel 36:25). John 3 also alludes to Ezekiel 36:25-26 concerning being born of water and the Spirit.
4. **Influx of the Nations:** Ezekiel has relatively little to say about the inclusion of the nations. However, Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:17 ("Come out from among them, come out from unbelievers...") echoes Ezekiel 20:34, 41. Ezekiel 47:22-23, which speaks of granting property rights to resident aliens, prefigures the welcoming of Gentiles into the Christian community.
5. **Distinctive Themes in Ezekiel Reflected in the New Testament: Sanctifying God's Name:** Ezekiel emphasizes God's concern for His name being profaned among the nations (Ezekiel 36:21-23). Jesus' prayer, "Hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6, Luke 11), picks up this theme, praying for God to bring about his kingdom fully.
6. **Future Reaction of Shame:** Ezekiel speaks of the exiles experiencing shame after being restored and forgiven (Ezekiel 16, 20, 36, 39). Paul in Romans 6:21 speaks of "things of which you are now ashamed," while in 1 Timothy 1:15, he calls himself the "foremost of sinners."

7. **Judgment:** Ezekiel heavily emphasizes God's judgment (first half of the book). The New Testament, especially Romans 1-3, acknowledges the necessity of understanding the bad news of sin and judgment *before* appreciating the good news of God's love. John 3:16 must be understood alongside John 3:36, which speaks of God's wrath. Ezekiel's role as a sentry warning his people is reflected in Hebrews 13:17 and Matthew 7:27, where disciples are warned to put Jesus' teachings into practice.
- **Ezekiel's Influence on Revelation:** The Book of Revelation owes a great debt to Ezekiel, with 58% of the New Testament's allusions to Ezekiel appearing in Revelation. Specific connections include:
    - Revelation 4's vision of God drawing heavily from Ezekiel 1.
    - Revelation 1:15's vision of the Son of Man echoing Ezekiel 1:15.
    - Revelation 18's fall of Babylon being based on Ezekiel's oracles against Tyre.
    - The sequence of end-time events in Revelation 20-22 mirroring Ezekiel 37-48 (resurrection, millennium, Gog and Magog, New Jerusalem, river of life).
  - **Adaptation, Not Just Adoption:** John adapts Ezekiel's material in Revelation to fit further Christian revelation. He includes the names of the 12 apostles on the foundations of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:14), rejects the need for a temple (Revelation 21:22), implies that there is no recurring atoning sacrifice (Revelation 5:6, Hebrews 7), and states that the medicinal leaves are "for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2).
  - **The Land and the Interim:** Ezekiel focuses on restoration *to the land*. However, the New Testament has a more universal perspective, emphasizing the world rather than a specific geographical location. Despite this, Luke-Acts hints at a future restoration of the kingdom to Israel (Luke 21:24, Acts 1:6). Both Judaism and Christianity exist in an "interim" period, awaiting the full realization of God's promises. "And so, in a way, the church is yet in exile, waiting to enter into its own promised land."

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Allen concludes that the book of Ezekiel was a vital part of scripture for the New Testament writers. They read Ezekiel through a Christian lens, embracing both continuity and discontinuity. Although Ezekiel wrote within the constraints of his context and priestly training, his book remains a valuable source for understanding the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.

## 4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 24, Ezekiel in Relation to the New Testament

### Ezekiel and the New Testament: A Study Guide

#### Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Dr. Allen, how does Paul treat the Old Testament narratives and figures in relation to Christians in 1 Corinthians 10 and Romans 4?
2. How does the number of formal quotations from Ezekiel in the New Testament compare to the number of verbal allusions? What does this suggest?
3. Name and briefly describe the four features of the Old Testament prophetic books that the New Testament picks up.
4. How does the New Testament understanding of the Davidic king in John 10 and 11 relate to Ezekiel's prophecy in chapters 34 and 37?
5. How does Paul use Ezekiel 36:26-27 in 2 Corinthians 3 to make a point about the difference between Judaism and the Christian experience?
6. In what ways does Paul pick up on Ezekiel's negativity regarding the nations in 2 Corinthians 6?
7. What is Ezekiel's view toward resident aliens in chapter 47, and how does this principle appear in the New Testament through the welcoming of Cornelius in Acts 10?
8. Why was it necessary for Israel's return from exile and rehabilitation to restore God's standing among the nations, according to Ezekiel?
9. According to Dr. Allen, how does the New Testament uphold the importance of judgment alongside the message of God's love?
10. How does the vision of God in Revelation 4 relate to Ezekiel's vision of God in Ezekiel 1?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Paul considers Old Testament figures like the Israelites in the wilderness and Abraham as ancestors to Christians, even Gentiles, emphasizing a spiritual kinship

and the ability to learn from their stories. He sees them as part of the family of God, connected to believers not genetically, but spiritually.

2. There are few formal quotations from Ezekiel in the New Testament but many verbal allusions, suggesting the New Testament writers were deeply familiar with Ezekiel, not just quoting it directly, but allowing it to shape their thinking and expression. This familiarity implies a foundational and pervasive influence of Ezekiel on New Testament thought.
3. The four features are the presentation of Jesus as a Messianic king, God's covenant with his people, the gift of God's spirit, and the influx of the nations to join the people of God. The New Testament claims fulfillment of these ancient promises in these four themes.
4. The New Testament picks up on Ezekiel's prophecy by presenting Jesus as the one shepherd, the Davidic king, who will gather the dispersed children of God into one flock, including those outside of Judah, such as Samaritans. This reflects a wider kingdom than initially envisioned, uniting North and South under Jesus's reign.
5. Paul uses Ezekiel's contrast between stony hearts and hearts of flesh to illustrate the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. He argues that the law written on tablets of stone cannot save because of human's hard hearts, but the gift of the Holy Spirit, as prophesied by Ezekiel, softens hearts and enables obedience, fulfilling the law's requirements.
6. Paul picks up on Ezekiel's negativity toward the nations by applying it to the Christian community, urging Corinthian Christians to separate themselves from unhealthy relationships with unbelievers. This emphasizes the need for believers to avoid being defiled by spiritual "Gentiles," reflecting Ezekiel's concern for maintaining purity and holiness.
7. Ezekiel advocates for granting property rights to resident aliens within Israel, welcoming them as full citizens. This principle is reflected in Acts 10, where Peter welcomes Cornelius, a Gentile God-fearer, into the Christian faith as a test that God-fearers can become full members of the Christian community.
8. Israel's return from exile was necessary to restore God's standing because the nations had wrongly concluded that God was weak, having failed to protect his people. By restoring Israel, God would demonstrate his power and holiness,

proving that he is not a defeated god and sanctifying his name among the nations.

9. The New Testament insists that the good news of God's love is only meaningful when the bad news of sin, judgment, and God's wrath is first acknowledged. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing one's sinfulness and need for redemption before embracing the forgiveness and salvation offered through Jesus Christ.
10. The vision of God in Revelation 4 draws heavily on Ezekiel's vision in chapter 1, reflecting similar imagery and details, including the likeness of God's glory and the throne. This connection underscores the continuity between the Old Testament and New Testament and the high esteem for Jesus's role.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the theme of the New Covenant in the New Testament, focusing on the role of Ezekiel's prophecies and how they are reinterpreted and fulfilled.
2. Explore the significance of Ezekiel's vision of the temple and its relation to the portrayal of the New Jerusalem in Revelation, analyzing the continuities, discontinuities, and theological implications.
3. Analyze the tension between judgment and salvation in both the Book of Ezekiel and the New Testament. How do both testaments balance these concepts, and what does it reveal about the nature of God?
4. Examine the influence of Ezekiel's prophecies on the Book of Revelation. How does John use Ezekiel's imagery, symbols, and eschatological framework to convey his message, and what changes does he make?
5. Discuss the theme of the "land" in Ezekiel and the New Testament. How does the New Testament broaden the concept of "land" to the "world" in light of the influx of nations, and what are the implications of this shift?



## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Eschatology:** The study of the end times or the last things, including events like the resurrection, judgment, and the new creation.
- **Messianic King:** The future king prophesied in the Old Testament who would be a descendant of David and would bring justice, righteousness, and salvation to Israel.
- **New Covenant:** A new agreement between God and his people, prophesied by Jeremiah and Ezekiel, characterized by forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a transformed heart.
- **Sanctifying God's Name:** The act of honoring and demonstrating the holiness of God's name among the nations, which is a major theme in Ezekiel.
- **Verbal Allusion:** An indirect reference to a passage or phrase from another text, suggesting familiarity and intentional connection without direct quotation.
- **Gog and Magog:** Names used in Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20 to represent the nations that will attack God's people in the end times, symbolizing the ultimate battle between good and evil.
- **Resident Alien:** A foreigner living in Israel who, according to Ezekiel 47, is to be granted property rights and welcomed as a full citizen, reflecting a more inclusive vision of God's people.
- **Gentile God-fearers:** Non-Jews who attended synagogue worship and followed Jewish customs but were not fully converted, representing a bridge between Judaism and the wider world.
- **Sentry Role:** Ezekiel's role as a watchman who warns the people of impending judgment and calls them to repentance, a concept reflected in the New Testament's emphasis on accountability and warning.
- **Exile:** The period in Jewish history when the people of Judah were deported to Babylon, a formative experience that shaped the prophecies of Ezekiel and influenced subsequent theological developments.

## **5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 24, Ezekiel in Relation to the New Testament, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **FAQ on Ezekiel and the New Testament**

#### **1. How should Christians approach reading the book of Ezekiel, considering its seemingly alien nature?**

Christians should approach Ezekiel by recognizing their spiritual kinship with the Israelites to whom Ezekiel was writing. Just as people research their family history and find connections to ancestors, Christians can see the Old Testament stories and characters as part of their spiritual family tree. Understanding this connection allows Christians to learn from the experiences and lessons presented in Ezekiel, even if the historical and cultural context seems distant.

#### **2. How prevalent are references to Ezekiel in the New Testament, and how should we interpret them?**

While direct quotations from Ezekiel are relatively few, there are numerous verbal allusions in the New Testament based on Ezekiel. However, not all of these allusions carry theological significance; some are purely literary. It's crucial to discern whether a reference to Ezekiel in the New Testament is deliberate and spiritually meaningful or merely a coincidental use of familiar phrasing.

#### **3. What are the four major themes from the Old Testament prophetic books that the New Testament claims to fulfill, and how does Ezekiel fit into these themes?**

The four major themes are: (1) Jesus as Messianic king, (2) God's covenant with his people, (3) the gift of God's Spirit, and (4) the influx of nations to join God's people. Ezekiel contributes to the theme of the Messianic king by envisioning a future Davidic ruler who will unite Israel. He also contributes to the theme of God's covenant with his people and the gift of God's spirit. However, Ezekiel has less to say about the influx of nations.

#### **4. How does the New Testament portray Jesus as a Messianic king, drawing upon themes in Ezekiel?**

The New Testament utilizes Ezekiel's imagery of a shepherd-king to portray Jesus as the Messianic king. John's Gospel, particularly in John 10, draws on Ezekiel 34 and 37, emphasizing Jesus as the one shepherd who will gather the dispersed children of God, uniting the Northern and Southern kingdoms. This concept is further developed in the

ministry to the Samaritans, reflecting the reunification of a divided people under one king. Also, Mark's Gospel seems to pick up on Ezekiel's mention of a new shoot that would grow into a magnificent cedar in his parable of the mustard seed to describe the growth of the Kingdom of God.

### **5. How does the New Testament connect to Ezekiel regarding God's covenant with his people and the gift of God's Spirit?**

The New Testament borrows covenant language from Ezekiel. For example, 2 Corinthians 6 references Ezekiel 37:27, using the covenant formula "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." The writer to the Hebrews also refers to Ezekiel 37:26 when he describes the covenant as the eternal covenant. Regarding the gift of God's spirit, the promise in Ezekiel 36:26-27 of God putting his spirit upon his people is echoed in the New Testament, with Paul referring to it in 1 Thessalonians 4:8 and 2 Corinthians 3, contrasting hearts of stone with hearts of flesh.

### **6. In what ways does the New Testament reflect the theme of the sanctifying of God's name, which is prominent in Ezekiel?**

Ezekiel emphasizes the sanctifying of God's name, particularly in chapter 36, where God's actions are aimed at restoring His reputation among the nations. This theme is reflected in the Lord's Prayer ("Hallowed be your name"), which can be interpreted as a prayer for God to bring about His kingdom fully so that His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

### **7. How do themes of shame and judgment in Ezekiel relate to New Testament teachings?**

Ezekiel highlights the exiles' future reaction of shame after being forgiven and restored, a theme echoed in the New Testament. Paul, in Romans 6:21 and 1 Timothy 1:15, speaks of past sins causing present shame as a motivation to avoid repeating them. Similarly, the emphasis on God's judgment in Ezekiel is mirrored in the New Testament's understanding that the good news of God's love is only meaningful when one first acknowledges the bad news of sin and judgment.

### **8. What is the relationship between Ezekiel and the Book of Revelation?**

The Book of Revelation relies heavily on the Book of Ezekiel. Many details from Ezekiel are used in Revelation, for example, Revelation 4 leans heavily upon Ezekiel's vision of God in chapter 1. The climactic events laid out in Revelation 20-22 are based on Ezekiel's timetable. However, John in Revelation adapts the Ezekiel material to fit God's further revelation in accordance with the Christian revelation.