

"Signs of the Times"  
Ezekiel 4

Historical notation: Chapter four is placed chronologically in the year 593 B.C. Five years have elapsed since Nebuchadnezzar first attacked Jerusalem (598 B.C.) and deported the first group which included Daniel, Azariah, Hananiah, and Mishaël. That siege lasted three months and coincided with King Jehoiachin's brief reign (2 Kings 24:8-12). Ezekiel's prophetic word will be directed at the remaining time before Jerusalem is destroyed during the reign of King Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:17ff – chpt. 25).

v. 1    Q.    What is Ezekiel commanded to do?

A.

1.

Note: This was probably a baked 1 foot by 1 foot brick-type object. One such map is of Nippur, a city close to where Ezekiel lives and can be found in the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

v. 2            2.

- a.    Erect \_\_\_\_\_ works against it.
- b.    Build a \_\_\_\_\_ up to it
- c.    Set up \_\_\_\_\_ against it
- d.    Put battering \_\_\_\_\_ around it

v. 3a           3.

4.

Q. What does this mean?

Read Leviticus 26:19. Deut. 28:48, Is.48:4; 59:2.

A.

1. Since the prophet represents God, it can mean that God's \_\_\_\_\_ or God's \_\_\_\_\_ will not be able to get through to the people for it will be resisted.
2. Since the prophet represents God, it can mean that God will \_\_\_\_\_ his face from the people as a form of judgment.
3. It can mean that, like an iron wall, no \_\_\_\_\_ will be able to get through.

v. 3b      5. Summation point:

v. 3c. Q. What is this all about?

A. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the house of Israel of what God was intending to do to Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

Note: This is the first of three signs. Three of them are directly connected to what Ezekiel does. He \_\_\_\_\_ the sign – that which points to something else (12:6, 11 and 24:24, 27). The other sign is connected to the \_\_\_\_\_ (20:12, 20).

Q. Why do you think God chose to communicate this way?

A.

Q. Why do you think God is communicating at all with His people?

A.

1.

2.

3.

v. 4a Q. What was Ezekiel asked to do next?

A.

1.

2.

v. 4b 3.

v.5 Q. How long was that to be?

A.

1.

2.

Note: Most scholars understand this to be from the time of Solomon's apostacy (931 B.C) to the end of the Babylonian exile in 539 B.C.

Note: Rashi taught that this was from the time the Israelites entered into Canaan until the deportation of Sennacherib, the Assyrian. Calculated from the book of Judges.

Note: It may also refer to the time of Jerusalem's destruction (587 B.C. until its end in 539 B.C.)

Q. What did it mean for Ezekiel to “bear the sin” of Israel?  
Remember that Ezekiel was a “sign.”

A.

1.

2. Read Numbers 18:1.

3.

v.6a Q. What was Ezekiel to do next?

A.

1.

2.

v. 6b Q. How long did this last?

A.

Note: The dates are all \_\_\_\_\_ since we are not told explicitly what they are and none of them really add up. We just know that it relates to their sin.

Note: Most scholars agree that the total number of years is \_\_\_\_\_ - 430 years that Israel was in captivity in Egypt. Cp. Exodus 12:40. However, the LXX complicates this by translating the Hebrew into Greek as 190 days and not 390.

v. 7 Q. What does the phrase “and with bare arm prophecy against her”?

Read Exodus 6:6; Numbers 11:23; Isaiah 52:10.

A.

v. 8 Q. What will God do to Ezekiel to fulfill this sign effectively?

A.

v. 9a Q. What is Ezekiel called to do next?

A.

1.

2.

3.

v. 9b Q. What is this connected to?

A.

v. 10 Q. What is he to specifically do?

A.

v. 11 Q. And next?

A.

v. 12 Q. What was he to do with food ingredients?

A.

1.

2.

3.

v. 13 Q. What did the Lord ask him to do this?

A.

v. 14 Q. How did Ezekiel respond?

A.

v. 15 Q. How did God respond?

A.

v. 16 Q. What was the prophetic point to this sign?

A.

1.

2.

v. 17 3.

4.

5.

Note: Read Jeremiah 19:8-9 to see just how bad things will get.

Note: Read Lamentations 5.

Q. What other instances in Scripture, did God picture the future-coming of Jesus and his atonement?

A.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Q. How do we reconcile the Ezekiel typology that finds its fulfillment in Jesus – that God is bringing judgment on sin and at the same time “bearing” the judgment himself?

A.

Q. Is there a type of “bearing” that we as followers of Jesus should still do?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:28-31; Galatians 6:2, 17.

A.