

### 23.11a Ezekiel's Picture Prophecies (Ezekiel 1–12)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud; they also show answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional materials needed. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- White paper plate of any size
- Multigrain bread and honey (may use for snack)
- Sand or dirt in a box with stones to represent Jerusalem’s walls
- Scroll-rolled piece of paper
- A tile about 12x12”; also an iron pot or an aluminum or stainless steel substitute
- Human hair that has been cut
- Gold-colored and silver coins or just coins
- Plastic sword
- Inkwell or ink horn, if possible
- Water-soluble marker
- Back pack or sleeping bag

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print on colorful cardstock and cut apart.

- *siege*: to surround a city and build siege ramps or use siege towers in order to starve a city into surrender
- *pestilence*: widespread sickness that causes many people to die
- *abominations*: despicable, disgusting actions—like worshiping idols in terrible ways
- *exile[s]*: people who are taken against their will from their homes to live in another country

#### Scripture:

Ezekiel 1–12 is over 200 verses, too much to include here. Here is a link to the ESV:

<http://esv.literalword.com/?q=Ezekiel+1>.

#### Introduction/Review:

In our last story the false prophet, Hananiah, broke Jeremiah's yoke. What did God say would happen to Hananiah? [He would die within a year.] How long was it before Hananiah died? [Less than two months.] God says what He means, and He does what He says.

**Story:** [Teacher, if you wish to shorten this story, you could skip “Chapters” 6, 7, 10, and 11. Doing so, you may eliminate the visuals of gold and silver coins and the picture of burning coals. The sign, >, before a chapter below helps to see which ones to include in a shortened lesson.]

Sometimes authors use word pictures to help us imagine what they are writing about. For example, the author might write, “The moon looked like a white plate in the night sky.” [Show the white paper plate.] Today we are going to talk about a Bible author and prophet who wrote and acted out word pictures to represent God’s message. We will call these word messages *picture prophecies*.

The prophet was Ezekiel. While Jeremiah lived in Jerusalem and prophesied to the people there, Ezekiel had been taken to Babylon with King Jehoiachin five years before today’s story begins. Ezekiel prophesied to the people in Babylon, but his message had a lot to do with Jerusalem back home. Nearly every chapter of this 48-chapter book has a picture that God used to preach to His people, exiled in Babylon. Today we will deal with chapters one through twelve, and next week we will talk about chapters thirteen through forty-eight.

>Chapter 1: Ezekiel was near the River Chebar in Babylon. ✓Some of the exiles from Judah lived near here. Suddenly, he saw a fantastic vision. First, a whirlwind/tornado came from the north; then there was a huge cloud with bright yellow (amber) fire in it. Four marvelous creatures appeared. They each had four faces—of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. They each had four wings—two to cover their bodies and two joined to other creatures. Below these amazing creatures were wheels within wheels. The wings of the creatures made a noise like a great waterfall as they flew, without turning, around a great throne in the sky with the brightness of a rainbow—like the glory of the Lord. This vision of the glory of the Lord caused Ezekiel to fall down to his face in worship.

>Chapter 2: God told Ezekiel to speak to the rebellious house of Israel and not to be afraid when he did so. A hand came out of heaven and gave Ezekiel a roll/scroll full of writing on both sides. The message of this writing was great sorrow, war, and weeping.

>Chapter 3: God told Ezekiel to eat that roll/scroll. Mmmm good! It tasted like honey! God said, “When you tell these people what I say, they will have hard-as-rock hearts and will not listen.” Then the Spirit, in Ezekiel’s vision, lifted him up and brought him back to the River Chebar. For seven days, Ezekiel was so awestruck that he could not speak. At the end of the seven days, God said, “I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore, warn them from me. If I warn the wicked that he will surely die and you do not warn him, you will be responsible. If you do warn him, you are not guilty.”

>Chapter 4: God told Ezekiel, “Draw a picture of the city of Jerusalem on a tile. Build siege mounds around that tile and put an iron pot close as if it is protecting the ‘city.’ Then lie down on your left side by your little ‘city’ for 390 days in order to show the years of Israel’s sin. Make some multi-grain bread, and eat just a little bit each day and drink just a little bit of water each day. After those days have passed, turn to your right side and stay there 40 days to show the iniquity of Judah. All of this shows how Israel will live among the Gentiles in the nations.”

>Chapter 5: God said, “Ezekiel, cut off the hair of your head and your beard, weigh it, and divide it into three parts. Burn one third to show that some of the people will be destroyed by pestilence. Cut up another third of it to show that some of the people will be destroyed by the sword. Throw another third of the hair into the air to show that I will scatter some of the people in order to judge them for their sin.”

Chapter 6: This chapter doesn’t have a picture to preach. Ezekiel was to prophesy against the mountains where Israel and Judah worshiped idols to the extent of even slaying humans for sacrifices. God said, “Some people who live will be scattered among the nations, and they will remember the Lord when they see the slain lying before their idols. They will sound like doves as they weep. Oooo! Oooo! Oooo!”

Chapter 7: “The end is come to the four corners of the land!” cried out Ezekiel when God gave him another message. God said, “I will pour out anger and judge and punish, and you will know it is I who strikes. The man in the field will die by the sword; the man in the city will die by famine and pestilence. Famine will make money useless, for there will be no food to buy. People will throw their gold and silver in the streets, for it will be useless. I will judge, and you will know I am the Lord.” said the Lord.

>Chapter 8: A year and a half after Ezekiel’s first prophecy, he was sitting in a house with the exiled leaders of Judah when he had another vision. This time he saw a man who took Ezekiel by the hair to Jerusalem. There, at the Temple of God, Ezekiel saw abominations in all parts of the Temple. Images of all kinds of beasts were painted on the wall. Seventy elders of Israel did wicked things in the dark, saying, “The Lord can’t see.” Women were weeping before a false god. Twenty-five men with their back to the Temple worshiped the sun. God said, “I will not pity these people. They will be punished.” Then to Ezekiel He said, “Dig a hole in the wall.”

>Chapter 9: In this vision a man had an ink horn/holder at his side. This man went throughout Jerusalem to see who was crying because of all of the abominations going on against God. On each of these people the man put a mark. [With a water-soluble marker put a mark on each student’s hand.] Then five other men went throughout the city and destroyed everyone who did not have the mark. Ezekiel pled with God, “Please stop the slaying,” but God said, “I will not stop because they say the Lord doesn’t see.”

Chapter 10: Again, Ezekiel saw the sapphire throne of God in the heavens, the cloud, the wheels, and the creatures called cherubim. God said to the man with the inkhorn, “Go among the whirling wheels in wheels under the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals and scatter over the city of Jerusalem.” The man did as he was told.

Chapter 11: At the east gate of the Temple, Ezekiel saw in his vision two false prophets and prophesied great trouble against them. As he spoke, Ezekiel was dismayed as a true prophet of God standing there fell dead. “Isn’t anyone going to be saved?” cried Ezekiel. “Yes,” answered God. “I will gather the exiles from all the nations and bring them back to Israel. They will remove the abominations. I will give one heart of flesh to obey Me.” Then the creatures and wheels lifted up. The glory of God was over them and on the mountain east of Jerusalem. The Spirit took Ezekiel back to Chaldea, where he told the exiles what he had seen.

>Chapter 12: This is the last chapter we’ll talk about today. It is a very specific prophecy about how King Zedekiah would be captured by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. God commanded Ezekiel, “Get stuff out of your house while everyone is watching. Carry your baggage on your shoulders during the daytime to make it look as if you are going into exile. At night, dig out through the wall. Cover your face so that you cannot see. This is how you will be a sign for Israel.” Ezekiel did as God commanded. and said, “This is how the king [Zedekiah] will be captured. He will dig through the wall; yet he will be captured, and taken to Babylon but not see the land but be slain. All those close to the king will be scattered.”

What are some of the things Zedekiah would do? [Dig through the wall; be captured; be taken to Babylon; not see the land; be slain; those close to the king would be scattered.] Remember these things, and as we study future lessons, see if God does as he said here.

In addition to all these pictures in Chapter 12, Ezekiel ate food with shaking and drank water in fear, picturing the people of Jerusalem, whose land would be stripped. God’s judgment would surely come.

This lesson was full of picture prophecies, but Ezekiel had much more to say and show. We’ve spent a lot of time telling about God’s certain and soon punishment of Israel for their sin of false worship. That worship was abominable to God. He had had enough. Yet, he kept on warning the people to turn from their evil ways. He kept sending prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
Jesus is the Judge of all the earth. The day will come when punishment will come to those who do not believe in Him.
- God is sending preachers to this wicked world today to warn them about their false worship—worship of their own ideas, of their money, their jobs—everything that turns their hearts away from full and complete service to the one true and living God.
- Listen to the warnings of Scripture. Learn God’s ways. Follow Him, and live. In His ways we can live life to the full.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: wheel in a wheel (difficult); face of a man, an ox, an eagle, or a lion; ink horn; hole in a wall
- Snack: multigrain bread spread with honey
- Sing “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel” (music is found at the end of this lesson).
- Have students lie on their left sides for a while around the tile and pot and mounds you have prepared for the story.
- Younger students (and maybe older ones) will enjoy videos of part of this story at [Bible Stories for the](#)

[Young : Stories \(biblestoriesonline.com\)](http://biblestoriesonline.com), [Ezekiel : The Man Who Ate a Book and Lay on His Side for a Really Long Time \(biblestoriesonline.com\)](http://biblestoriesonline.com), and [Ezekiel : Talks to Mountains \(biblestoriesonline.com\)](http://biblestoriesonline.com).

- Review questions: (Game: Print a paper, a “scroll,” found at the end of this lesson and marked with six lines to divide it into equal parts. When a student answers a question correctly, a marked section of the scroll may be torn off to indicate “eating” the scroll.)
  1. Tell what one of the four faces on the amazing creatures was. [Lion, man, ox, eagle.]
  2. What did tell Ezekiel to do with the scroll? [Eat it.]
  3. What did Ezekiel do for 390 days? [Lay on his left side to show the years of Israel’s sin.]
  4. What were people doing at the Temple? [Worshiping false gods, even the sun; doing wicked things.]
  5. What happened to a true prophet when Ezekiel spoke to him? [He died.]
  6. What did Ezekiel’s picture prophecy, putting a hole in the , represent? [King Zedekiah would dig through the wall to escape Jerusalem, but he would be captured.]

#### **Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)**

- Psalm 1 (The KJV has visuals at [psalm 1 - Bing images](#) words only, and [Tree & Psalm 1 - Openclipart](#) with a tree in the picture. The ESV has one at [\(840\) Pinterest](#) with a lamp and a Bible in the picture.)
  - 1** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
  - 2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
  - 3** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.
  - 4** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
  - 5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
  - 6** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

#### **Handwork:**

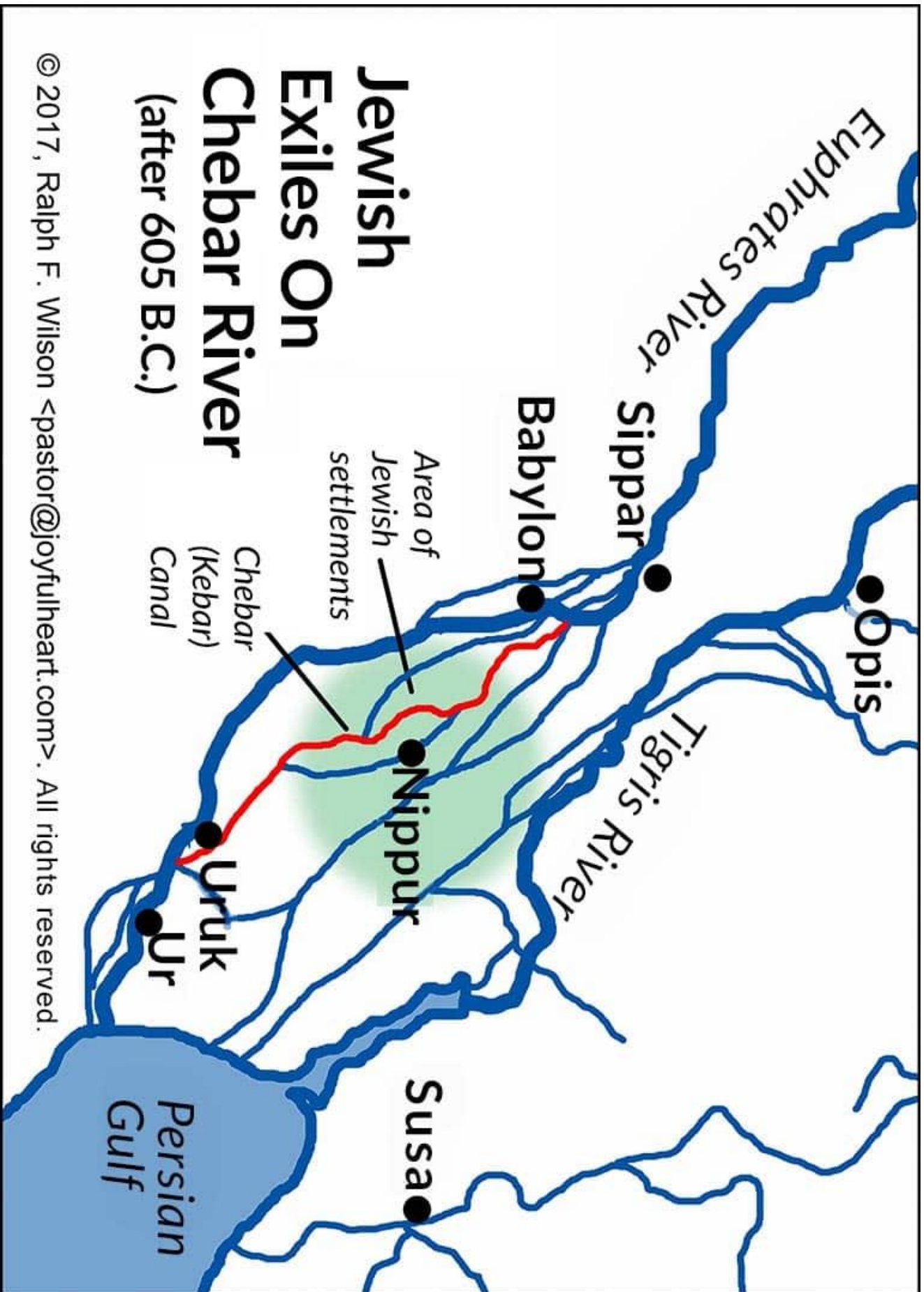
- Paste a map of Jerusalem on a tile or piece of cardboard.

SIEGE

PESTILENCE

ABOMINATIONS

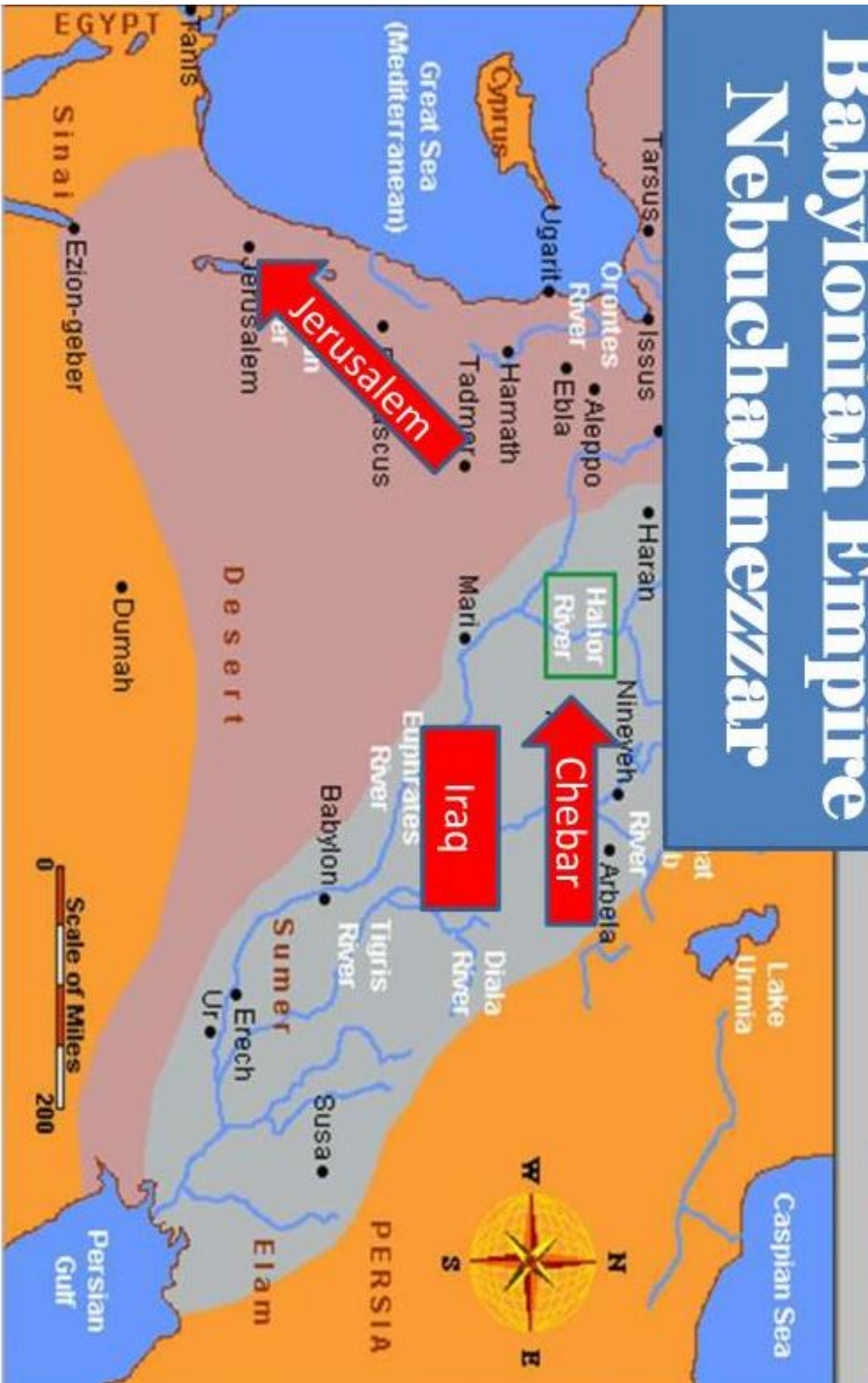
EXILE[S]



# Jewish Exiles On Chebar River (after 605 B.C.)

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# Babylonian Empire Nebuchadnezzar





[Studies in Ezekiel: Wings and Wheels - A Fascinating Exploration \(pinterest.com\)](https://pinterest.com)





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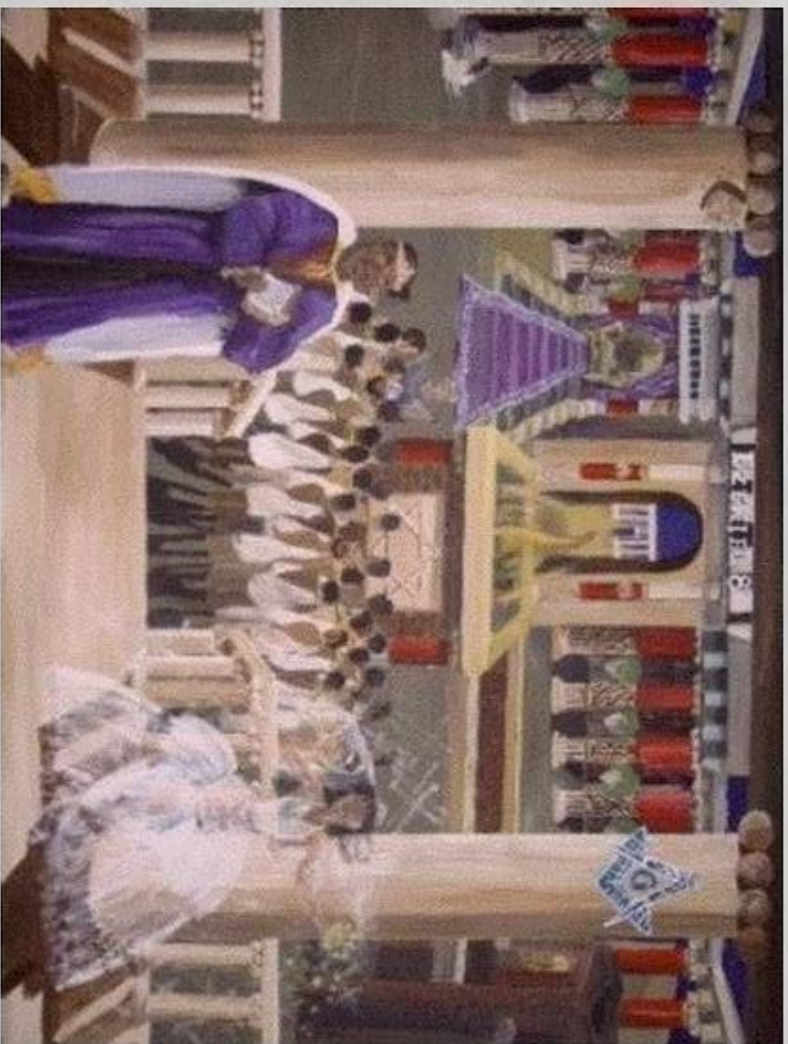
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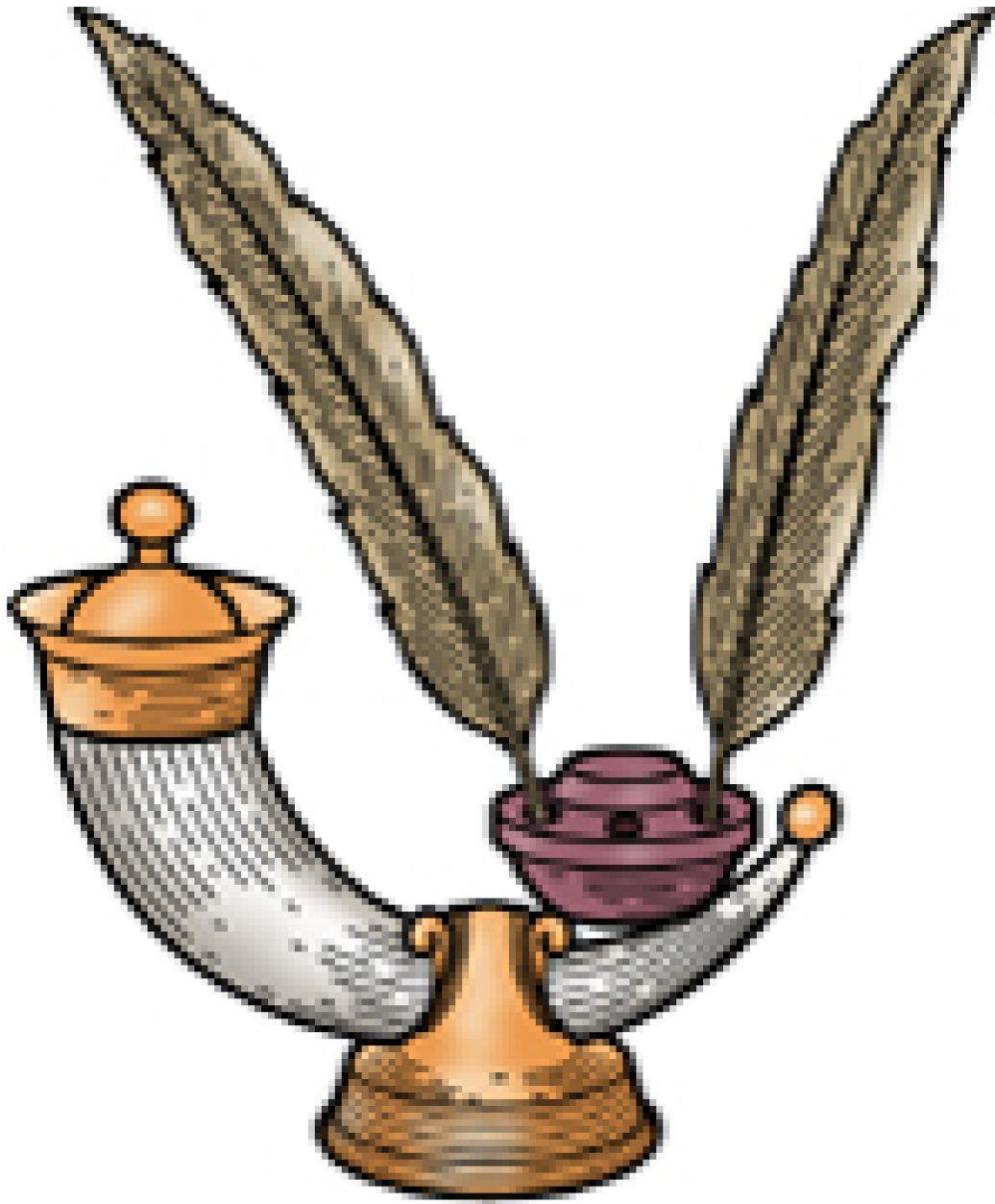
They will throw their silver into the streets,  
and their gold will be like refuse;  
**their silver and their gold**  
**will not be able to deliver them**  
in the day of the wrath of the LORD.

EZEKIEL 7 NINETEEN NEW KING JAMES VERSION

# Ezekiel 8:15

*Then said he  
unto me,  
Hast thou  
seen this, O  
son of man?  
turn thee yet  
again, and  
thou shalt see  
greater  
abominations  
than these.*



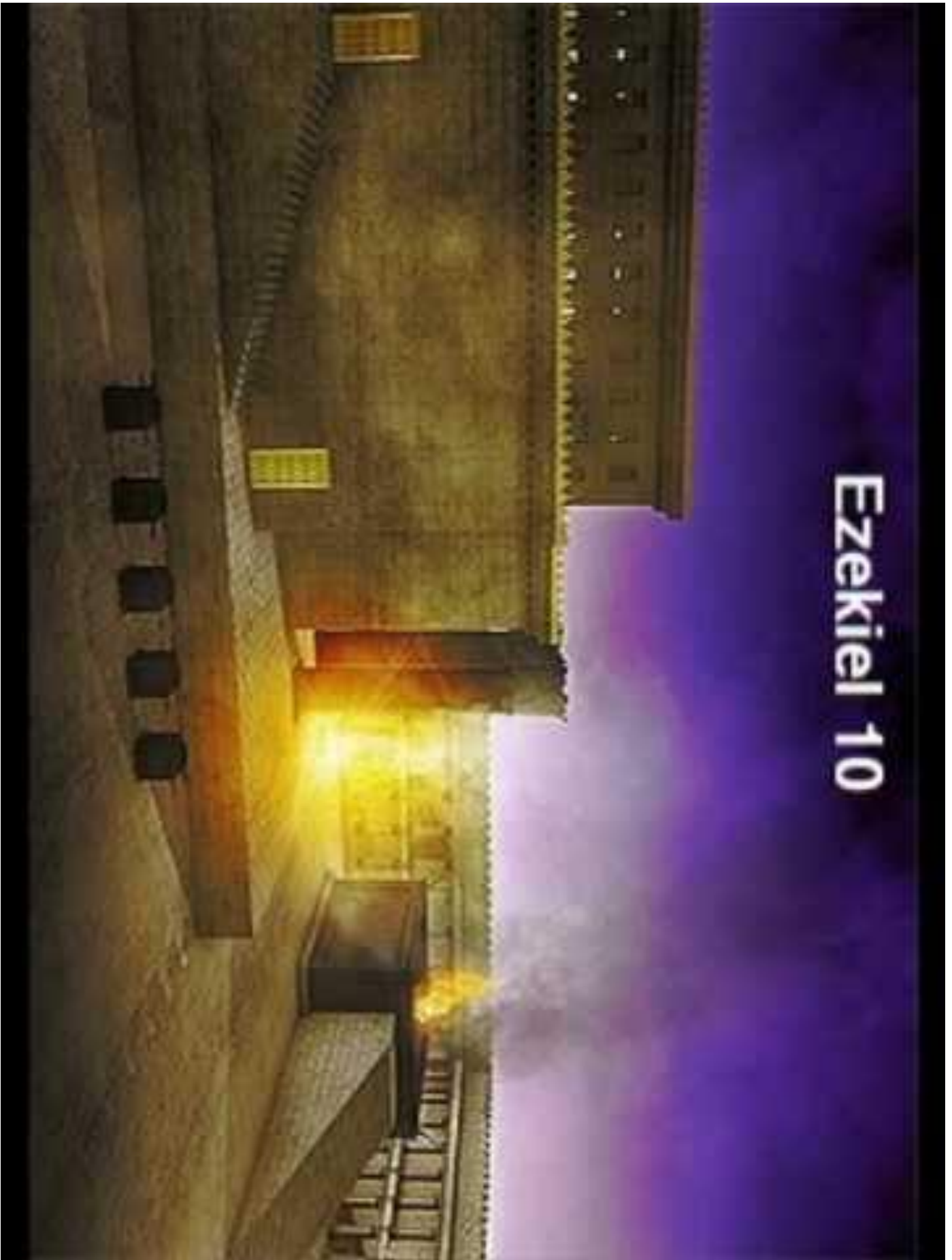


inkhorn





# Ezekiel 10





“ And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died.”—*Ezek. xi. 13.*



“ I brought it forth in the twilight, and I bare it upon my shoulder in their sight.”—*Ezek. xii. 7.*





# Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

African-American Spiritual

♩ = 120      C      A-      C      F      G7      C

E - ze-kiel saw the wheel 'Way up in the mid-dle of the air. E -

5      A-      E-      F      G7      C

ze-kiel saw the wheel 'Way in the mid-dle of the air. And the

9      A-      C      F      G7      C

lit-tlewheel run by faith, and the big wheel run by the grace of God. There's a

13      A-      E-      F      G7      C      Fourth Time To Coda

wheel in a wheel, 'Way in the mid-dle of the air.

17      \*Verse      F      G      C      F      G7      C

1. Some go to church for to sing and shout, 'Way in the mid-dle of the air, Be -  
2. Nev - er can tell what a hypo-crite'll do, He'll  
3. Don't pray for things that— you don't need, The

21      F      G      A-      F      G7      C      Third time D.S. al Coda

fore six months they're all turned out, 'Way in the mid-dle of the air. E-  
lie about me and he'll lie about you,  
Lord don't like no sin and greed,

⊕ C      CODA

air.

## Scroll Eaten in Game Questions

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