

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2025-2027
Session #1: Background and Overview of Ezekiel**

CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
SK = See Ko Chinese Bible
NAB = New American Bible
SN = Special Notes

<p>A</p>	<p><u>What can Readers Expect in Ezekiel?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Throughout the Bible, God’s presence is especially manifested among God’s chosen people; from the Tabernacle, the Temple, and to the Church (Mary). In Eze 1, God’s presence is represented by the imagery of a divine chariot among the living creatures, appearing in the prophet’s vision. God’s presence departs from the Temple when the Israelites’ lives are steeped in sins and corruption (Eze 10-11); in the season of restoration, God’s presence returns and His Glory fills the entire Temple (Eze 43:5). ● There are two main expressions of divine activity: God’s word and His Spirit. Given the fuller revelation of the Spirit of God in the New Testament, readers can understand that God manifests Himself through the Son and the Holy Spirit. ● The first 24 chapters contain one of the most sustained and vehement declarations of judgment of the Israelites. The long trek through the oracles of judgment is like a journey through a dense, dark, seemingly endless forest that makes travellers long for light. After all, judgment is an invitation to repentance. ● Ezekiel can be deemed as the pioneer of the OT Charismatic Movement. ● The main themes of the book is a call to the Israelites’ return from their exile, restoration, and establishment of the New Covenant. 	<p>CCSS 22-25</p> <p>Nb 9:15, 1Kg 8:10, Lk 1:35</p> <p>Jn 14:16, 16:13</p> <p>Eze 18:30-32</p> <p>Eze 2:2, 8:3</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Authorship, Date of Writing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ezekiel, a prophet as well as a priest, lived among the people of Israel in exile in Babylon in 6 BC. He wrote from 593 to 571. ● In the early twentieth century, scholars began to challenge Ezekiel’s authorship of the book, arguing from multiple authors and editors and for a complex process of composition that may have taken several centuries to complete. However, due to the unity of style and content, most scholars accept Ezekiel as the primary author. This also reflects our perception. 	<p>CCSS 17-18</p>

<p>C</p>	<p><u>Historical Context</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 721 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria. ● In the late 7 BC, the kingdom of Judah was caught between Babylon and Egypt, wavering between an alliance with one and an alliance with the other. It was in this period that the prophet Jeremiah began to prophesy challenging words to the kings and nobles of Jerusalem. ● Later, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon surrounded the area of Palestine, staged a siege against Jerusalem under King Jehoiakim, who was forced to surrender, and was taken by Nebuchadnezzar into exile along with the leading people of Judah (young nobility), to serve the Babylon palace. This was the first siege of Babylon. ● When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem in 597 BC, he attacked Jerusalem again due to Jehoiakim’s attempt to rebel. His 18-year-old son, Jehoiachin surrendered, and was taken into exile to Babylon along with a majority of the leading people of Judah, including Ezekiel. This was the second exile. Ezekiel remained in Babylon where he wrote the entire book; he was the only prophet who carried out his ministry in Babylon. ● In 587 BC, Jerusalem was besieged due to the rebellion of Zedekiah. When the city fell, Nebuchadnezzar burned down the temple and destroyed the city and its fortifications. A third and final deportation occurred. Judah and Jerusalem were in ruins. This was the third exile. 	<p>CCSS 18-19</p> <p>SK 2026</p> <p>Daniel 1:1-7</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Unique Literary Features and Structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The predominant genre of the book is the prophetic oracle, written in both prose and poetry (chapters 19 and 28). An oracle is a message spoken by a prophet on God’s behalf or in God’s name. ● Like Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel opens with a call-narrative, detailing how he receives his commission to speak the word of the Lord. ● Among the prophets, Ezekiel is considered to be the most visually descriptive and vision-oriented. He makes ample use of parables; he performs symbolic actions that embody God’s message for the people; he speaks in God’s own voice to chastise or make a promise. 	<p>CCSS 19-21</p> <p>Is 6, Jer 1</p>

E	<p><u>Relationship with the Other Biblical Texts and Traditional Jewish Literature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is evident that this book shows clear links with Genesis. E.g., The pattern of the dry bones receiving the “breath” of God (37) follows the pattern of God forming and breathing life into Adam (Gen 2:7); the rivers that flow through the renewed land of Israel (47) mirror the rivers found in the garden (Gen 2:10-14). ● It is evident that Ezekiel was well-versed in the Pentateuch and in the prophets who came before him, especially the influence of Jeremiah. At several points he refers to Israel’s exodus from Egypt. He is sometimes identified as a second Moses. ● Ezekiel shows a special dependence on the covenant blessings and curses found in Lev 26 and Deut 28-30. This is the reason for the judgment and redemption of Israel. ● Ezekiel’s influence on the New Testament is evident, especially in the Johannine books. E.g., Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Jn 10, Eze 34). The NT’s language of resurrection appears dependent on the dry bones passage in Ezekiel (Mt 27:52, Rev 11:11 => Eze 37). ● Ezekiel has a strong connection the the book of Revelation: the four living creatures (Rev 4, Eze 1); to “eat” the scroll (Eze 3, Rev 10); the great and final battle in Rev 20:7-10 makes explicit reference to Gog and Magog; the measurement of the temple (Rev 21, Eze 47-48). ● Ezekiel also has an important influence upon traditional Jewish texts, particularly, themes and texts from Ezekiel have a place of prominence in the Dead Sea Scrolls. 	CCSS 25-26
F	<u>The 2025-27 Curriculum</u>	SN1

SPECIAL NOTES

The 2025-2027 Curriculum: :“The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel”

2025-2026

Lesson	Date	Topic	Chapters/Verses
1	9/26/25	Introduction to Ezekiel	--
2	10/24/25	Ezekiel’s Vision of the Divine Presence	1:1-28
3	11/28/25	The Call of Ezekiel	2:1-3:27
4	12/19/25	Christmas Gathering	--
5	1/23/26	Judgment on the City and the Land	4:1-7:27
6	2/26/26*	Judgment on the temple and the Departure of the Lord’s Presence	8:1-11:25
7	3/26/26*	Oracles and Parables of Judgment against the City and the Land (Part 1)	12:1-15:8
8	4/24/26	Oracles and Parables of Judgment against the City and the Land (Part 2)	16:1-19:14
9	5/22/26	Oracles and Parables of Judgment against the City and the Land (Part 3)	20:1-23:49
10	6/26/26	The End of at Hand	24:1-27

2026-2027

Lesson	Date	Topic	Chapters/Verses
1	9/25/26	Prophecies against the Nations, Part 1: The Nations and the city of Tyre	25:1-28:26
2	10/23/26	Prophecies against the Nations, Part 2: Egypt	29:1-32:32
3	11/27/26	God’s Judgment against Israel Completed	33:1-33
4	12/18/26	The Lord God Comes to Shepherd His People	34:1-31
5	1/22/27	A New Heart and a New Spirit	35:1-36:38
6	2/25/27*	The Covenant of Peace Renewed	37:1-28
7	3/18/27*	The Great Battle: Gog and Magog	38:1-39:29
8	4/23/27	The New Temple	40:1-42:20
9	5/28/27	The New Law of the Temple	43:1-46:24
10	6/25/27	The New Land	47:1-48:35