

## Lessons from Ezekiel: Parables and Signs<sup>1</sup>

### Ezekiel 23–24

#### **The Parable of the Two Sisters (Ezekiel 23:1–49)**

“Ezekiel gave their names and identities. The older was named Oholah, and her sister was Oholibah. These names are based on the Hebrew word for ‘tent’. The first name means “her tent” and the second means ‘my tent is in her.’ Though one must be careful not to press a parable’s details, probably these names have significance. The word “tent” implied a dwelling place or sanctuary. It was often used of God’s sanctuary among Israel (cf. Ex. 29:4, 10–11, 30).”<sup>2</sup>

#### **The Parable of the Boiling Pot (Ezekiel 24:1–14)**

“Ezekiel’s final prophecies of doom against Jerusalem came in the ninth year (of King Jehoiachin’s exile), in the 10th month on the 10th day. This was January 15, 588 BC—a day of national calamity for Jerusalem. The king of Babylon besieged Jerusalem that very day. This was the day Ezekiel had been pointing to for over four years.”<sup>3</sup>

“The cooking pot represented Jerusalem, and the meat represented the inhabitants. ‘Bring it to a boil’ (v. 5) is an emphatic statement in the Hebrew text, which literally means “cause its boilings to boil.” This statement was an allusion to the ferocity of the Babylonian attack against Jerusalem.”<sup>4</sup>

#### **The Signs of Ezekiel and His Wife (Ezekiel 24:15–27)**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Ezekiel: Redemption for God’s People* (2024) by John MacArthur.

<sup>2</sup> Dyer, C. H. (1985). [Ezekiel](#). In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 1:1271.

<sup>3</sup> Dyer, C. H. (1985). [Ezekiel](#). In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 1:1274.

<sup>4</sup> Cooper, L. E. (1994). [Ezekiel](#) (Vol. 17, pp. 235–236). Broadman & Holman Publishers.