

יְהֵזְקֵל

*Yehezqel*

Ezekiel

**Who Was He?**

# Prophet of Exile

- Born to a Cohen/Priestly Jerusalem family, c. 623 BCE, during reign of righteous reformer King Josiah/יִאֲשֵׁיָהוּ;
- In 597 BCE, he was part of a group of Judean elites exiled after an unsuccessful revolt against the ruling Babylonians;
- There's another unsuccessful revolt in 586 BCE, culminating in the horrific destruction of Jerusalem and mass exile depicted in Eikha/Lamentations;
- The Book of Ezekiel consists of six visions of the prophet, between 593-571 BCE, all in Babylonian exile.

## **Three Major Sections of the Book**

1. Harsh Judgment of Israel (Cap. 1-24)
2. Harsh Judgment of other Nations (Cap 25-32)
3. Promises of Future Blessings for Israel (Cap. 33-48)

## Ezekiel Was...Different

R. Judah said in the name of Rav: “Remember a certain man for good—Hanina son of Hizkiah is his name—for were it not for him, the book of Ezekiel would have been withdrawn, since its words contradict the words of the Torah. What did he do? He took three hundred barrels of oil and stayed in the upper chamber and expounded it. -- Talmud Bavli Menahot 45a