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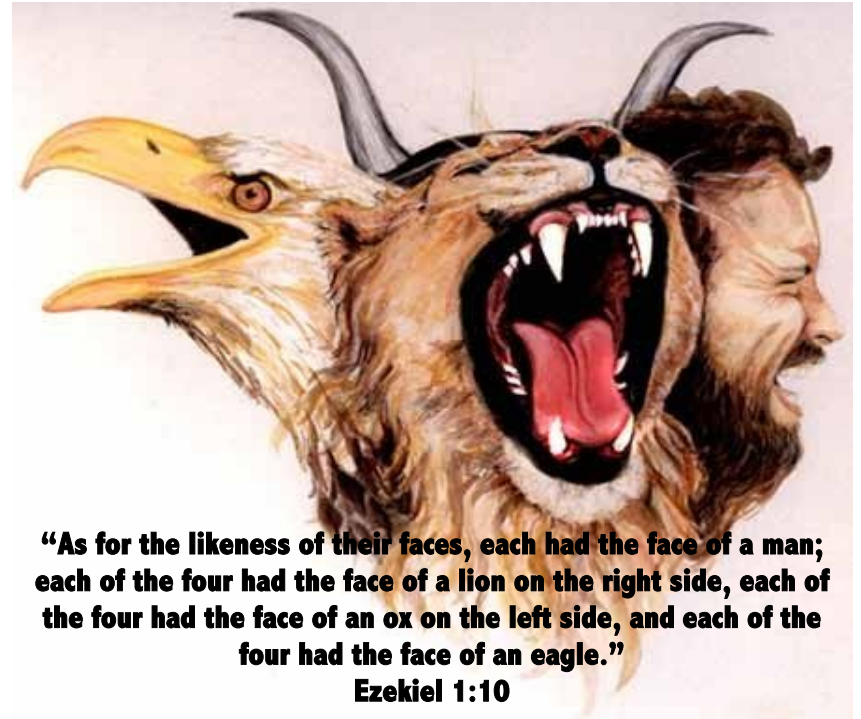
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If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at [jim@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:jim@calvaryroswell.com) or [phil@calvaryroswell.com](mailto:phil@calvaryroswell.com)

For a digital form of this booklet, an mp3 version of the teaching and/or powerpoint slides from the teaching, visit our website at <http://www.calvaryroswell.com/biblestudies/index.htm>



## Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



**“As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.”**

**Ezekiel 1:10**

## Ezekiel 1-11

May 8th-14th, 2008

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

## Ezekiel-

We do not have to look deeply to find the *key idea* and the *focal message* of Ezekiel. They confront us on almost every page. With slight variations that expression, "They shall know that I am Jehovah," occurs no less than seventy times. It is used twenty-nine times in connection with Jehovah's punishment of Jerusalem; twenty-four times in connection with Jehovah's governmental judgments on the Gentile nations; and seventeen times in connection with the coming restoration and final blessing of the elect nation. To see this is to see the heart of the book unveiled. The elect people, and all other peoples, are to know by indubitable demonstration that Jehovah is the one true God, the sovereign Ruler of nations and history; and they are to know it by three revelations of His sovereign power— first, by the punishment of Jerusalem and the captivity of the chosen people, which came true exactly as foretold; second, by the judgments prophesied on the Gentile nations of Ezekiel's day, which also have come true exactly as foretold; and third, by the preservation and ultimate restoration of the covenant people, which had a partial fulfillment in the return of the "Remnant" under Ezra and Nehemiah, and which is still being fulfilled in the marvelous preservation of Israel, and which is even now hastening to its millennial consummation.

*Explore the Book*, J.Sidlow Baxter

### Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)

<http://preceptaustin.org/hebrews.htm>

### Sermon Links:

"Ezekiel: Wheel, Bones, and Restoration" by Ray C. Stedman

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/3097/0226.html>

### Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is

**With the Word Bible Commentary**

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

# Ezekiel



## **Author: Ezekiel**

Ezekiel lived in Jerusalem at the same time as Jeremiah. Ezekiel was probably taken captive to Babylon in 597 b.c. and may have personally known Daniel, who had been taken to Babylon during the earlier deportation of 605 b.c.

Ezekiel received his call to ministry in 592 b.c. – five years after he was taken captive.

While Jeremiah was ministering to the people in Judah, Ezekiel was ministering to the exiles in Babylon.

The Hebrew name transliterated “Ezekiel” means “God strengthens” or “strengthened by God.” The name occurs twice in this book and nowhere else in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, was a priest who was called to be a prophet of the Lord.



**Time:** Ezekiel was carried off to exile in Babylon after the city fell a second time to Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. His first vision is probably to be dated in the year 593–92 B.C. and the latest date given for an oracle is probably 571–70 B.C., making his ministry about twenty years long.



**Theme:** The Glory of God. Sixty-seven times the statement “I am the Lord” is found in this book, and several times God is said to act “for [His] name’s sake” so that His holy name would “not be profaned.”

At this point in history, the people of the northern kingdom had been in exile for over a century (since 722 B.C.), and the people of the southern kingdom (Judah) had already suffered two of their three exiles to Babylon (in 605 and 597 B.C.). Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed, and the exiled Jews would naturally have had great hopes that Jerusalem might somehow survive. But God had clearly spoken

otherwise. Their false hopes kept God's people from facing the truth: their own sins would soon bring about the destruction of their city and nation (586 b.c.). Ezekiel's prophecy was designed to place the responsibility for Jerusalem's downfall squarely on the shoulders of the Jews. But the prophecy's message also provided comfort for the Jews after the destruction of Jerusalem by graphically presenting the prediction of a restored Jerusalem, temple, and land.



**Keys:** The 30th year (1:1) is probably Ezekiel's age when he received his call, the age when priests entered fully into their temple duties. As exile had deprived Ezekiel of the privilege of serving as a temple priest, God graciously gave him the prophetic ministry recorded in this book.

Ezekiel is an apocalyptic book. Like the books of Daniel and Revelation, Ezekiel belongs to the genre of "apocalyptic" writings. Characteristics of this type of literature include the use of symbolism, visions, allegories, parables, and symbolic actions. In fact, Ezekiel employs more visions, visual-aid attention grabbers (like shaving the head), and word pictures than any other OT writer. He tells six parables (15; 16; 17:1–21; 17:22–24; 19:1–9; 23).

Ezekiel gives precise dates for his prophecies, underscoring their historical accuracy. Except for the "thirtieth year" noted in 1:1, these dates are calculated from the exile of Ezekiel and Jehoiachin in 597. (Using 586 as the date of Jerusalem's fall, a date of 597 for Ezekiel's exile can be calculated from the information given in 40:1.)

# Daily Bible Study

Thursday, May 8th, 2008

***Passage for today: Ezekiel 1-2***

## Questions to Ponder

1. Although Ezekiel's vision in chapter one is difficult to fully understand, what does it show us about God's glory and character? How did Ezekiel respond when he saw it?
2. What is Ezekiel being called to do? What was the character of the children of Israel? What is God's complaint against them?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 1

At the age of thirty, when he could have started serving in the temple (Num. 4:3), Ezekiel was called to serve as God's prophet in Babylon. He was in captivity, but that did not keep the heavens from opening so that he could see the glory of God (Rev. 1:9ff).

***He saw God's providence*** (1–21). The vision shows how God is working in His world. What looks like a storm to us is the tool of His providence, the wheels spinning within the wheels and the living creatures going back and forth like lightning. It is all too much for us to understand but not for God to control. Romans 8:28 still stands!

***He saw God's throne*** (22–27). Far above the storm, the wheels, the living creatures, and the firmament is God's throne ruling over all. It looked as though Nebuchadnezzar was ruling everything, but God was still on His throne: "The LORD sits as King forever" (Ps. 29:10). The next time you face a storm, look high enough to see God's exalted throne.

***He saw the rainbow*** (28). Usually you see the rainbow when the storm is over (Gen. 9:8–17), and only an arc at that. Ezekiel saw the rainbow during the storm, and it completely encircled the throne! A symbol of God's grace, the rainbow assures us that the Lord is with us and will not forsake us, especially when we are going through a storm.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 2-3

After the vision came the voice, which is as it ought to be. God's Word endures after the memory of visions fades (2 Pet. 1:16–21). Ezekiel had all the qualities that make for success in serving the Lord.

He saw God's glory and fell on his face in humble worship (1:28). Only a vision of the glorious throne of God can sustain you when the way grows difficult.

He stood on his feet, was filled with the Spirit, and listened to the Word of God (2:1–5). He fed on the Word, which gave him what he needed to speak God's Word (2:6–3:3). In this, he was like Jeremiah (Jer. 15:16), John (Rev. 10:9), and Jesus (Matt. 4:4).

He set his face to do God's will (3:4–11; Isa. 50:7; Luke 9:51). Several times in the book God tells him to "set his face" against something. Ezekiel depended on the hand of God to strengthen him (3:12–14). He sat with the people and identified with their pain (3:15), and he waited patiently for God's word to come to him (3:16–23).

When God spoke, He made Ezekiel a watchman and told him to stay home and be quiet until he received the message to speak. His solitude and silence were signs to the people that God was angry with them for rejecting His Word.

Ezekiel knew that he had been called at a difficult time to do a difficult work with a difficult people, and yet he obeyed the Lord. Little did he know the price he would have to pay to be a watchman, but he was faithful.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Eze2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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# Daily Bible Study

Friday, May 9th, 2008

*Passage for today: Ezekiel 3-4*

## Questions to Ponder

1. What does the scroll that Ezekiel was told to eat symbolize? What applications can we make from this? Why did God tell Ezekiel that the people will not listen to him?
2. Ezekiel was made a watchman. What duties and responsibilities came with that calling? What actions did God tell Ezekiel to do in chapter 4? What did they portray? How were these actions like sermons? How did Christ make it possible for man to be brought into a glorious destiny? Why did He come in the flesh? How does that benefit us today?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 2-3

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—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 4-5

Ezekiel began his public ministry with four action sermons that declared God's judgment against Jerusalem. First, he "played war" to demonstrate the siege of the city (4:1-3). The iron plate represented the barrier between God and His people (Lam. 3:43-44). Nothing could stop Babylon from capturing the city.

Then, he lay bound for part of each day, 390 days on left side and then 40 days on the right, to show how many years both Israel and Judah had sinned. How long-suffering God was during those years and how they broke His heart (6:9)!

During those fourteen months and ten days, Ezekiel had to ration his food and water as the people in Jerusalem would do. Compare 4:14 with Acts 10:14. Though he was not serving as a priest, Ezekiel still obeyed the priestly code. No doubt the people watched him day after day and told others about his bizarre behavior, and that helped to spread the message.

His fourth sign involved shaving his head and face, a real sacrifice for a Jew. The hair represented the people in Jerusalem who faced three destinies: death by famine, death by the sword, and dispersion among the nations (Deut. 28:47-57). But a believing remnant would be protected and saved by the Lord.

Why was God angry with His people? Because they rebelled against His law (5:6), defiled His temple (5:11), and did more abominations than the heathen nations around them (5:6-7). They did not glorify the Lord but used all His blessings to promote their sin.

Three hundred and ninety years is a long time to continue in sin! We can only marvel at the long-suffering of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:1-9).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

# Daily Bible Study

Saturday, May 10th, 2008

*Passage for today: Ezekiel 5*

## Questions to Ponder

1. Compared to the surrounding nations, what was the moral condition of Jerusalem and the people of Israel? What judgments will God execute upon His people? What does the severity of these judgments teach us about God's nature and character?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 4-5

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# Daily Bible Study

Sunday, May 11th, 2008

*Passage for today:* **Ezekiel 6**

## Questions to Ponder

1. In this chapter, what sin is God dealing with? How will God respond to this sin? In the midst of judgment, what promise of hope is given?
2. “You shall know that I am the Lord” is a phrase used often in this chapter and in the book of Ezekiel. In what ways did the people forget or take this lightly? How does this apply to your life?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 6-7

**Ruin** (6:1–7, 11–14). The signs were over; now the prophet gave two sermons. Judgment was coming to the mountains and valleys where the people carried on their idolatrous worship. The whole system would be destroyed and the people with it. It was the end!

**Repentance** (6:8–10). In grace, God would spare a remnant that would remember Him and repent of their sins. The sin that breaks the heart of God should break our hearts as well.

**Repayment** (7:1–27). Four times God says, “I will repay” (7:3–4, 8–9; See also Gal. 6:6–8). All the things Judah trusted will not help them, not money (7:19), idols (7:20–22), or their leaders (7:23–27).

It was the end: “The end has come!” (7:2, 3, 6); “Then they shall know that I am the LORD” (7:27).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 5:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Monday, May 12th, 2008

*Passage for today: Ezekiel 7*

## Questions to Ponder

1. What is the message and theme of chapter 7? How did wealth become a stumbling block to the people? In the day of judgment how will silver and gold be seen?
2. Many took light the warnings of judgment and now it has come upon them. Do you see similar attitudes in people today? What application does this have for those who live in the last days?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 6-7

**Ruin** (6:1–7, 11–14). The signs were over; now the prophet gave two sermons. Judgment was coming to the mountains and valleys where the people carried on their idolatrous worship. The whole system would be destroyed and the people with it. It was the end!

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—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 7:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, May 13th, 2008

*Passage for today: Ezekiel 8-9*

## Questions to Ponder

1. In chapter 8 Ezekiel is shown visions of the temple. What were the abominations that he saw? Who were the people committing these abominations?
2. If we are now the temple, how would these things apply to us? In chapter 9, who were those who would be spared from judgment? Why? Are you one with the same distinguishing character?
3. Why is the writer confident of better things for his readers? What assurance do we have that our hope in Christ is not in vain?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 8

Chapters 8–11 constitute a vision God gave to Ezekiel of the defilement of the temple (chap. 8), the destruction of the people (chap. 9), and the departure of God’s glory from His house (chaps. 10–11). The vision burdened Ezekiel to pray (9:8) and prepared him to preach the Word (11:25). God will one day judge our evil world. Knowing this, what does it motivate you to do?

What happened in the temple was indicative of what was happening in the nation: it was given over to the worship of idols. There was an image at the door, and there were idolatrous pictures in the inner chamber. Men and women worshiped idols openly, and others did it “in the dark” (v. 12); but all were guilty. When sin comes in at the door of a person’s life, it eventually moves to the inner chambers and takes over. Ponder Proverbs 4:23.

This sin brought violence to the land (v. 17) and removed God’s glory from His house (v. 6). What a price to pay for sin!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 8:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, May 14th, 2008

*Passage for today: Ezekiel 10-11*

## Questions to Ponder

1. What is the main thing taking place in chapter 10? How is this the greatest judgment of all?
2. In chapter 11 what promise is made concerning the land of Israel? How will the people be changed? What will be for those who desire detestable things?

## With the word Bible Commentary

### Ezekiel 10

**The throne** (1). If all you do is look at the sins of the land, you will end up very discouraged. Do as the prophet did: lift your eyes higher and get a new vision of the throne of God (Jer. 17:12).

**The fire** (2–17). Coals from the altar brought cleansing to Isaiah (Isa. 6:6–7), but they brought judgment to Jerusalem. The altar is the place where sin is atoned for because sin is judged. Had the nation sought God’s mercy and obeyed His Word, the coals would have brought cleansing. Yet even in the midst of terrible judgment, God’s “wheels” were still turning and His purposes being worked out in the world.

**The glory** (18–22). God will not share His glory with idols (Isa. 42:8); therefore, He had to abandon His house. His glory moved to the door of the east gate, poised to move again (11:22–23). If the nation would not glorify God in their obedience, they would glorify Him in judgment.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Eze 10:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson



# **Overall Outline**

## **I. Ezekiel called to serve God (1-3)**

## **II. The Condemnation of Judah (4–24)**

1. A disobedient nation (4–7)
2. A departed glory (8–11)
3. A disciplined nation (12–24)

## **III. The Condemnation of the Gentile Nations (25–32)**

## **IV. The Restoration of Israel (33–48)**

1. Return of Israel to the land (33–39)
2. Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48)

# **This week's Outline**

## **I. Ezekiel called to serve God (1-3)**

1. Display of the God's Glory (1)
2. Prophet's Call and Empowerment (2)
3. Prophet's Preparation as Watchman, (3)

## **II. The Condemnation of Judah (4–24)**

1. A disobedient nation (4–7)
  - Judgment of Jerusalem (4)
  - Sign of Prophet Shaving Hair (5)
  - Sword to Fall Upon Jerusalem; Remnant to be Saved (6)
  - Prophecy of Final Destruction of Jerusalem (7)
2. A departed glory (8–11)
  - Vision of the Glory; Temple Defilement (8)
  - Shekinah Glory Prepares to Leave Temple (9)
  - Shekinah Glory Fills Holy Place; Leaves the Temple (10)
  - Prophecy Against Rulers of Jerusalem, Chapter 11

## *Ezekiel, A Living and Obedient Illustration*

Ezekiel 4:1 – 5:5

We find in the fourth and fifth chapters of this book of prophecy, that Ezekiel was called by God to do some peculiar things to illustrate the Lord's message of judgment against rebellious Israel. Like Hosea, who was called to marry a prostitute to illustrate God's marriage to an unfaithful Israel; Ezekiel was called not only to speak God's message, but to *live* God's message before the people. There are four different living illustrations found at the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic ministry (Ezekiel 4:1-3; 4-8; 9-17; 5:1-4). Each of these actions illustrates different points that the Lord was seeking to make. The actions were odd, and even disturbing. But the prophet was obedient to the Lord despite the audacity of the acts.

Imagine for a moment being the prophet. At this point in time, he was in captivity in the land of Chaldea. He had been called by God to fulfill the very tough ministry of preaching repentance and wrath to come to the "impudent and hard-hearted" people of Israel. He was told that the withholding of even a word of God's message from the people would bring the blood of his intended hearers upon his own hands and, in that, would bring damage to his own soul. All of these things had been laid before him, and here we find that the first acts of his ministry had not so much to do with speaking, as with living out these odd illustrations before the people.

Reading through the illustrations, imagine the difficulty of performing such tasks. Think to yourself of all the ramifications of doing such things. Imagine the reproach he must have felt from those around him. Imagine the scorn and the shame. Imagine the personal loss of time (over 430 days), reputation, and respect before his fellow captives and captors. Imagine the physical cost (with lying on his side and only eating and drinking small portions for those many days)!

We find here no other explanation for Ezekiel's heart of obedience toward the Lord than reverence, humility and servitude. We find him here, displaying a bit of the same heart as that of our Prophet, Jesus Christ, who was obedient at a great cost as well. Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus, though He was God, made Himself of no reputation. He took on the form of a bondservant, put on the likeness and

appearance of man and humbled Himself in obedience to the point of death on the cross (2:6-8). In the eternal realm, Jesus was called to do a seemingly odd act in becoming man and living out the express image of God on earth. Do we not find a strand of the same faithful obedience and humility in our prophet Ezekiel?

Ezekiel's ministry began with these very humbling and yet vivid pictures for the stubborn people of Israel. It must have been more obvious to Ezekiel than anyone else that the road he was called to walk was indeed a tough one. With that though, he displayed here his understanding of the heart of God. His obedience here came through faith, knowing that all of those actions would one day be worth it, as he stood blameless and shining before our Holy God as a faithful servant. He was obedient even though it cost him.

Christian, today you might find that walking the course of life that Jesus Christ has laid before you requires much obedience in the face of seemingly odd requests by God with some pretty high costs. Know that there are others before you who have completed tasks much the same and have paid dearly to walk their course as well. The next time you encounter a step of faith that might cost you reputation, respect and dignity before men; remember Ezekiel and remember the obedience of Christ Jesus and "let this mind be in you which was also in [Him]" (Phil. 2:5). Step forward knowing that Your Savior's course costs much, but gives much reward in the end (Romans 8:18)! May He bless you today as you fulfill the steps of ministry laid before you – no matter how odd or costly it may be!

## *Notes*

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