



EZEKIEL'S VISION AND CALL (1:1-3:21)

Historical Setting of the Prophecy (1:1-3)

- ◇ The time (1:1,2)
- ◇ The place
- ◇ God spoke to Ezekiel (1:3)

His Vision of the Glory of the Lord Coming in Just Judgment (1:4-28)

- ◇ The appearance of the four living creatures (cherubim) (1:4-14)
- ◇ The vision of the chariot (1:15-25)
- ◇ The throne of Jehovah's glory (1:26-28)

Ezekiel's Call to the Office of Prophet (2:1-7)

- ◇ The Spirit enters Ezekiel
- ◇ The people to whom he must speak God's message (2:3-7)

Ezekiel's Consecration to Do This Work (2:8-3:15)

- ◇ He is prepared by eating the little book (2:8-3:3)
- ◇ He is commissioned to speak regardless of opposition (3:4-11)
- ◇ Ezekiel is transported to the place of his activity (3:12-15)

Ezekiel Reminded He's a Watchman to the House of Israel (3:16-27)

- ◇ The responsibility of a watchman (3:16-21)
- ◇ Ezekiel enters into his ministry (3:22-27)

JEFFERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2016 Adult Bible Study

Ezekiel

By Elder Betsi Moise

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|----------------|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| JUDGEMENT NEAR | 1 | Ezekiel's Vision | INWARD |
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| | 4 | Jerusalem's Signs | |
| JUDGEMENT NOW | 6 | | OUTWARD |
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| HOPE AHEAD | 20 | Pronouncements | ONWARD |
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EZEKIEL: GOD IS STRONG

Historical Background of Ezekiel

Ezekiel grew up in the environs of the temple in Jerusalem, since he was born in a priestly family. Born in 623 B.C., he witnessed the changing fortunes of his people and was included in the exile to Babylon in 597 B.C. Called to the prophetic ministry in 593 B.C. through a spectacular divine revelation, he was made conscious of God's presence and message in the midst of the idolatrous surroundings of Babylon.

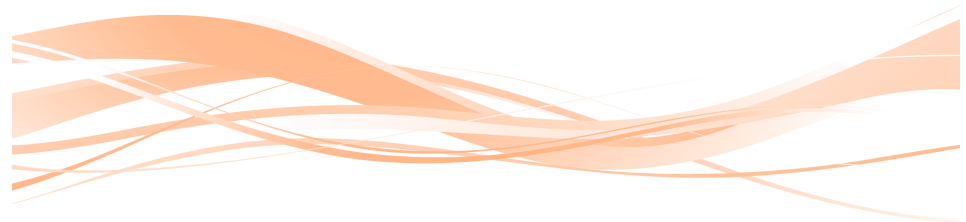
He along with other exiles settled in Tel Abib near the —River Chebar, probably not far from the city of Nippur in Babylon. While residing in this area, Ezekiel received his prophetic call in the fourth year of exile.

During the first part of his ministry, Ezekiel proclaimed essentially the same message given by Jeremiah: Jerusalem is doomed to destruction. The sinfulness and idolatry prevailing in Jerusalem will result in God's abandoning the temple, as well as Jerusalem-with judgment to follow. Babylonian captivity is certain.

The exiles in Babylon were from the upper classes that ignored the previous prophetic warnings. In short, the exiles hoped for an expedient return to Israel. Naturally, the people in exile despised Ezekiel for his prophetic message.

The prophet himself identified the fate of his people by taking on the suffering and dramatizing their fate through personal anguish and agony. Yet, the people over time accepted their new home in Babylon and the message of Ezekiel. The conditions in Babylon were favorable and comfortable. (Can someone say "cucumbers in Egypt?")

After the news reached Babylon that Jerusalem actually had been destroyed in 586 B.C., Ezekiel proclaimed a new message of hope and restoration. God as the great Shepherd will regather the Israelites from the ends of the earth and reestablish them in their own land. The nations who challenge Israel's return will be defeated and judged.



Questions:

Chapter 1

- ◇ Where was Ezekiel when he wrote this book? (1-3)
- ◇ What came out of the whirlwind? (4-5)
- ◇ What four faces did each one have? (6, 10)
- ◇ What was in the wheels? (16, 20-21)
- ◇ What was the appearance of the one on the throne? (26, 28)
- ◇ What did Ezekiel do when he saw the appearance of the one on the throne? (28)

Chapter 2

- ◇ How did God describe Israel to Ezekiel? (3-4)
- ◇ What would Israel know? (5)
- ◇ Of what was Ezekiel not to be afraid? (6)
- ◇ What was Ezekiel to do? (7)
- ◇ What did the LORD make Ezekiel to be (17)
- ◇ What would the blood be on Ezekiel's hands? (18,20)
- ◇ What was sent to Ezekiel? (9-10)

Chapter 3

- ◇ What was Ezekiel to do with the roll of a book? (1-3)
- ◇ To what people was Ezekiel to speak? (4-7,11)

Reflections:

- ◇ What do you think this vision is intended to represent to Ezekiel?
- ◇ Compare and contrast Ezekiel's duty as a prophet with that of a Ruling or Teaching Elder today.

Biblical References:

| Ezekiel | See and Compare |
|---------|--|
| 1:6-8 | Rev. 1:15 |
| 1:11-14 | Luke 17:23, 24 and Matthew 24:26-28 |
| 1:22-25 | Psalms 18:13, Exodus 9:23, 28,29; 20:18 |
| 2:2 | 1 Peter 1:10, 11 |
| 2:8-3:3 | Jeremiah 20:9, Acts 4:20 |
| 3:16-21 | Psalms 127:1, 130:6; Hebrews 13:17, Matthew 27:37-39 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Hebrews 12:1-11 1 John 5:16,17 |



NOTES: