

God Calls Ezekiel

Lesson 1

Ezekiel 1:1-3:15

Background

Our study continues with the remnant of the southern kingdom exiled in Babylon. To prepare the setting for the continuation, we will back up to the year 597 B.C., 11 years prior to the fall of Jerusalem. As our study opens, Jehoiachin is king and Jeremiah is God's prophet in Jerusalem.

1. What major event took place that year? (2 Kings 24:10, 11)
 - How did king Jehoiachin respond? (2 Kings 24:12)
 - What was the result of his action? (2 Kings 24:13-17)
2. This second deportation included a young man named Ezekiel.
Using Ezekiel 1:1-3 as the text:
 - Where did he say he was located?
 - What was his occupation?
 - When did the Lord speak to him?
 - How did the Lord speak?

Ezekiel's Vision

3. Ezekiel opens his book by describing the vision he received from the Lord of a windstorm coming out of the north. How did he describe this storm? (Ezekiel 1:4)
4. As a priest of the Lord, what should this have reminded Ezekiel of? (Exodus 19:16-19)

5. After describing the scene, he zooms in on four creatures at center stage. From Ezekiel chapter 1 describe these beings:
 - Form (vs. 5-6)

 - Legs (vs. 7a)

 - Feet (vs. 7b)

 - Wings (vs. 8a)

6. Details were then given about these four-sided beings. Describe the:
 - Four faces (vs. 10)

 - Four wings (vs. 11)

 - Movement (vs. 12 & 14)

 - Appearance (vs. 13)

7. *"As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces."* Describe these wheels. (Ezekiel 1:16 & 18)
 - Summarize the wheel movement. (Ezekiel 1:17, 19-21)

8. Ezekiel lifted his eyes toward the sky and described it as *"sparkling like ice and awesome."* Lowering his eyes again he returns to the living beings with one pair of wings stretched toward each other and the other pair covering its body. Then they moved. How did he describe the sound of their wings in motion? (Ezekiel 1:24)

- Looking at the list above, use one word to describe that sound.
9. Stop for a moment and picture yourself in Ezekiel's place. His senses seemed to be bombarded with sights and sounds, and then everything stopped. There was a hush as the living beings stood still and lowered their wings. They appeared to be waiting for something. Then a voice was heard coming from ABOVE the expanse, over their heads. What does Ezekiel say he saw when he turned toward the voice? (Ezekiel 1:26-28)
10. And when Ezekiel saw this, how did he react? (Ezekiel 1:28c)

The Call of Ezekiel

11. As Ezekiel humbled himself before this awesome appearance of the Lord, the voice spoke to him.
- How was Ezekiel addressed? (2:1a)

 - How many times was that title used during Ezekiel's "call"? (Ezekiel 2:1-3:15)

 - By using that title in relation to the other being, what do you think the Lord was emphasizing about Ezekiel?
12. The first command Ezekiel was given was to "*Stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.*" The Almighty king had spoken from His throne to his subject who remained facedown. But Ezekiel was unable to move in the awesome presence of the Lord. How was he finally able to get up and obey? (Ezekiel 2:2)
- How do you think this applies to us today?
13. The Lord said He was sending Ezekiel to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. What words does the Lord use to describe His people Israel? (Ezekiel 2:3,4a)

14. He is told he must deliver the Sovereign Lord's message whether they listen or not – why? (Ezekiel 2:5)

15. In verse 6, the Lord commands Ezekiel, "Do not be afraid," three times. What were those things he was not to be afraid of (either specific or implied)?

16. The Lord repeated His message a second time to speak the Lord's words whether they listen or not. They are rebellious but Ezekiel is ordered not to rebel. What is the next command? (Ezekiel 2:8c)

17. "Then I looked and I saw a hand stretched out to me." What was in the hand? (Ezekiel 2:9,10)

18. Ezekiel was commanded to eat and then what was he to do? (Ezekiel 3:1)

19. A second time the command to eat was given and Ezekiel obeyed. What did he say it tasted like? (Ezekiel 3:3)

20. Ezekiel's contemporary prophet in Judah was Jeremiah. How did Jeremiah describe a similar experience? (Jeremiah 15:16)

21. The Psalmist also wrote a whole chapter devoted to God's word. How did he describe it in Psalms 119:103?

22. Ezekiel, Jeremiah and the Psalmist all agree on what it was like to eat the words of the Lord. What do you think they meant:
 - By eating it?

 - By its sweetness?

23. After carrying out God's command to eat, he is commissioned to go "To the house of Israel and speak my words to them." What point does the Lord emphasize? (Ezekiel 3:5)

24. But, in spite of this fact, the Lord forewarns Ezekiel they will not listen to him - why? (Ezekiel 3:7)
25. Since God's people are "*hardened and obstinate*," how will the Lord give Ezekiel what he needs to stand firm in the Lord and be able to carry out his commission? (Ezekiel 3:8,9)
26. Once again Ezekiel is told not to be afraid of these rebellious people. The Lord's tone seemed to change as He talked to Ezekiel. He knew it would not be an easy task. What final words did the Lord give to him? (Ezekiel 3:10,11)
27. From the above verses:
- What does it say was Ezekiel's responsibility?

 - Who does it imply was not responsible for the results?

 - Do you see an application for our lives today if we are to become obedient servants of the Lord?
28. During this whole interchange, Ezekiel has been standing in the presence of the Lord. Using Ezekiel 3:12-14, let's look at how the interview ended.
- What did Ezekiel hear?

 - How did he exit?

 - What was his mental state?
29. After this vision, Ezekiel went to Tel Abib near the Kebar River. What happened to Ezekiel when he arrived? (Ezekiel 3:15)