

Ezekiel's Ministry Begins
Lesson 2
Ezekiel 3:16-5:17

The vision Ezekiel received from the Lord was so awesome that it left Ezekiel speechless for seven days. But it had been necessary for God to reveal his power and greatness to Ezekiel before sending him to confront a rebellious people with their sins.

Final Instructions

1. At the end of the 7-days after Ezekiel had “*digested*” all that he had seen and heard, the word of the Lord came to him a second time. Calling him, “*Son of man,*” to remind Ezekiel of his humanity, he was told the Lord was making him “*watchman*” for the house of Israel. Using a dictionary, define the role of a watchman.

2. As **spiritual watchman** over Israel, Ezekiel was to bring God’s warning to the people. The Lord laid out the watchman’s duty and the penalty associated with failure to carry out that role. Ezekiel 3:18

- If Ezekiel did not deliver God’s message to a man in sin and he died in that sin,

- Then: _____

Ezekiel 3:19

- If, however, Ezekiel does deliver God’s message but the man does not turn from his sin,

- Then: _____

Ezekiel 3:20

- If a righteous man turns and does evil, and the Lord puts up a stumbling block but Ezekiel doesn’t warn him,

- Then: _____

Ezekiel 3:21

- But if Ezekiel does warn him and he listens,

- Then: _____

3. From the four conditions given above, what do you think the Lord was trying to impress upon Ezekiel?

4. Verse 22 begins with, "*The hand of the Lord was upon me.*" What do you think Ezekiel meant?

5. Ezekiel was told to "*Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you.*" So he went. Using Ezekiel 3:23:
 - What did Ezekiel see there?

 - What was his reaction?

6. "*Then the Spirit came and raised me to my feet. He spoke to me and said*" – what?
 - Ezekiel 3:24

 - Ezekiel 3:25

 - Ezekiel 3:26

 - Ezekiel 3:27a

He concludes with another reminder that Ezekiel is not responsible for the result, which belongs to the individual, but he is held accountable to faithfully bring that individual God's word. Then, if that individual refuses to listen, God will consider it rebellion.

Ezekiel's Obedience

7. Ezekiel was living among the exiles in Babylon and they were all waiting and watching for news of their beloved Jerusalem. What was the news they were receiving from Jerusalem? (Jeremiah 28:2-4)

Siege of Jerusalem symbolized

8. The Lord spoke to "*son of man*" again. What were his instructions this time? (Ezekiel 4:1-3a)

9. Once this was completed, Ezekiel was told to "besiege it." Why? (Ezekiel 4:3c)
10. Then he was told to lie on his left side for 390 days. What was this to symbolize? (Ezekiel 4:4,5)
11. Next he was to lie on his right side for 40 days. What did that represent? (Ezekiel 4:6)
12. During the 390 days, what did his diet consist of? (Ezekiel 4:9-11)

Note: 20 shekels = 8 oz. And a 6th hin = 2/3 qt.

13. Each day he was to make his food in full view of the people.
 - What was he told to use for fuel? (Ezekiel 4:12)

 - Why? (Ezekiel 4:13)
14. What was the Lord referring to? (Daniel 1:5,8 & 12)
15. But Ezekiel reacted strongly to this saying, "Not so Sovereign Lord! I have never defiled myself. From my youth until now I have never eaten anything found dead or torn by wild animals. No unclean meat has ever entered my mouth." Why did he react so strongly? (Deuteronomy 14:1-3)
16. The Lord said, "Very well." What provision did He make for Ezekiel? (Ezekiel 4:15)
17. As in other parables, first the symbolism is given then the explanation. What reality was this symbolic act to represent? (Ezekiel 4:16,17)
18. "Now, son of man, take a sharp sword and use it as a barber's razor to shave your head and your beard." What was Ezekiel told to do with the shaved hair? (Ezekiel 5:1-3)

19. Who do you think the "few strands" tucked into Ezekiel's garment represented?

20. He was instructed to take a portion of these "few strands." What was he to do with their portion? (Ezekiel 5:4)

21. What do you think that symbolized?

22. Babylon and Jerusalem had false prophets telling the people that soon there would be peace and the exiles would be returning home. But the true prophets of the Lord were bringing a different message, one not of peace but of punishment. Why was the Lord going to inflict this punishment upon them? (Ezekiel 5:5-7 & 11)

23. Who does it say is the one responsible for the punishment? (Ezekiel 5:8)

24. The parable of the hair is explained in verse 12. What was the explanation for dividing the hair into thirds?

25. Israel had been given a very special position by the Lord. What did the Lord say in Exodus 19:6 about the nation, Israel?

26. Prior to entering the land, what had Moses told the people? (Deuteronomy 30:15-18)
 - Why? (Deuteronomy 29:24)

That message is reiterated in Ezekiel 5:4, "I will make you a ruin and a reproach among the nations around you, in the sight of all who pass by." He continues to describe what will take place during the siege of Jerusalem, famine, plague, bloodshed and death, not a pretty picture. But the Lord had chosen them as His own special people; holy to Himself and it was through their relationship with the Lord that all the nations of the world would come to know Him as the one true God. He had warned them that if they obey, then He would bless them; but if they disobeyed then He would curse (punish) them. Either way they would become an example to the world of the power and might of the one true God.