

Part 1, Week Two: God's Glory, and Ezekiel's Commissioning to be a Prophet – Ezekiel 1-3

In past studies, we have looked at the tent of meeting or the traveling tabernacle as the place where God dwelt with Man when Israel was in the desert and for a time after Israel entered into the land. This was before the Temple in Jerusalem was built during King Solomon's reign. God's glorious presence was manifested to the people as a cloud by day and as a flame of fire by night. He took up residency in the Holy of Holies between the cherubim's wings atop the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. This manifestation of God was called the Shekinah Glory. When the tabernacle was traveling with the Israelites and it would come to rest, the Israelites would camp around the tabernacle following very detailed instructions Moses received from God on the Mountain of God. The Levites, the caretakers of the tent, would be camped as the first layer around the perimeter of the tabernacle. The remaining 12 tribes would be camped around the Levites as the second layer. These tribes would be gathered into four groups of three tribes each and each group would then camp around the tribal standard (flag) of the lead tribe for that group. Judah, Ephraim, Reuben, and Dan were the lead tribes for each of the groups to the east, west, south, and west, respectively. Interestingly enough, the standards for each of the lead groups had these symbols on them: Judah: a lion, Ephraim: an ox or bull, Reuben: a man, and Dan: an eagle.¹ Please read Numbers 2.

Day 1 - Ezekiel's Vision of God's Holiness –Ezekiel 1-3:15

Now, I would like you to read Ezekiel chapters 1-3 on your worksheets in the Appendix. In some way, uniquely mark all points of direction or location, i.e., "from the north," and "by the river Chebar among the exiles," etc. Also, make a time mark out in the margin whenever you encounter a "time" word, i.e., "now," "thirtieth year," "fifth day of the fourth month," "then," etc. I would also like you to mark the following words in your own unique way. These are key repeated words and I want you to take notice of them as we study this book.

"Son of man," "Ezekiel," the priest," "the son of Buzi," "a watchman to the house of Israel," and pronouns as all one marking

"vision(s)"

"spirit" as contrasted with the "Spirit"

"glory of the LORD"

all references to God, including pronouns – I mark mine with a purple hollowed-out triangle

"the whole house of Israel" and appropriate pronouns, i.e., "the sons of Israel," a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me," "that rebellious house," "the house of Israel," "the exiles"

"scroll"

¹ Chuck Missler, *The Book of Ezekiel* CD-ROM, Coeur d'Alene, ID, Koinonia House, 2001?

Do you think that Ezekiel saw visions of God's face or God's glory? Read about God's face and His glory in Exodus 33:18-23. Why can no man see God's face?

Assuming this is a picture of God's glory, or His presence, what characteristic or attribute of God, do you think could be described here? (Circle one)

His omnipresence

His omnipotence

His omniscience

Describe the four living beings found in Ezekiel 1:4, especially noting the form of the four faces. What are those four faces? Now, do you see a connection with this picture of God's presence in Ezekiel and the picture of God's presence in the standards of the four lead tribes surrounding the Shekinah Glory? If you really want to see something cool, go back to the numbering of the different camps of the tribes of Israel. If all were situated on all four cardinal points of the compass in rectangles, the number of each camp would make a cross, viewable from above the camp. Our God is awesome!

Timeline for Ezekiel's day (See page 12 at the end of this lesson, Ezek Part 1, Week 2)

Please use the blank space below to make a picture of what you think Ezekiel saw concerning these four living beings. Use colored pencils or gellies or whatever you have to make a representation of what you are reading in these descriptive words.

Now, let's take one more look at one other passage of Scripture that tries to explain the Glory of God or tries to give us a picture of the "throne of God," using words. Read all of Revelation chapter 4. Draw another picture of God's presence according to the descriptive words used in Revelation 4.

Isn't this interesting? Wherever we see a picture of God's throne or God's presence (not His face) in Scripture, we see these same four faces on living beings surrounding His throne and giving Him glory.

Day 2-3 –Ezekiel's First Vision of God's Holiness (continued from Day 1) – Ezekiel 1-3

Reread chapters 1-3 and answer the questions below. Please see if you can find any lists in the text and mark those lists out in the margin of the Ezekiel double-spaced worksheets in the Appendix using numbers or bullet points. I made lists for the characteristics of the four living creatures, i.e., those that were human-like, those that were animal-like and those that were angelic-like. Also, I made a list of what the wheels looked like and what they were doing. How about a list describing the sons of Israel beginning in chapter 2? Read these three chapters over and over again. The more you read them, the more lists you will be able to discover

As well as making lists on your Ezekiel double-spaced worksheets, record your lists for the following here:

What were the human-like characteristics of the four living beings?

What were the animal-like characteristics of the four living beings?

What were the angel-like characteristics of the four living beings?

What were the wheels doing?

What did the wheels look like (remember, Ezekiel was a priest and he viewed things "through priest's eyes;" think about the tabernacle, the articles used in worship, the sacrifices, the prayers, the fact that God is holy and man is not)?

What did the wheels symbolize or in this case, literally, what were they?

What did the rims of the wheels of the living beings look like?

What do you think the eyes on the rims of the wheels symbolized?
Describe the sons of Israel by all the different adjectives that God uses for them:

Describe the storm wind:

List all the “like(s)” and “as(s)” and their comparisons (remember that Ezekiel was using descriptive imagery here; he was a master at this).

The word “appearance” occurs two times in 1:27 and three times in verse 1:28. What are the comparisons here?

What were the commands God gave Ezekiel according to the following verses?

Ezekiel 2:1-2

Ezekiel 2:3-5

Ezekiel 2:6-7

Ezekiel 2:8-3:3

How was the scroll described in chapter 2:9-3:1?

What is this scroll and how does it compare to the “book” seen in Revelation chapter 5?
Were the scrolls of Ezekiel 2-3 and Revelation 5, written on both sides or on only one side?

What would the unraveling of the scroll (book) in Revelation reveal and what would both sides of the scroll in Ezekiel 2:9–3:2 reveal? How were these two scrolls alike?

Here in Ezekiel 2:8, the one who looked like a human being coming from the midst of the vision cloud, extends his hand to Ezekiel with a scroll in it. We looked at God's "outstretched arm" several times in our study of Isaiah, as well. Were the references to God's outstretched arm in Isaiah an extension of God's blessing or an extension of His wrath against sin? How should we see this hand extended to Ezekiel in the midst of the cloud, blessing or showing wrath?

How was Ezekiel not to be like the Israelites starting in 2:8?

How did God make Ezekiel so that he could withstand the pressure of the people and continue to be God's spokesperson to them?

Ezekiel was to speak to the people on God's behalf. Would the people hear him? Should the people have heard him? Why didn't the people hear Ezekiel? Even though God warned Ezekiel ahead of time, that the people would not hear him, did God expect Ezekiel to go to them anyway and speak to them what was on God's heart? Knowing what the Israelites response would be ahead of time, why would God have sent Ezekiel to speak to them anyway?

Check out Isaiah 6, especially 6:9-12. Did Isaiah get the same message from God for the same blind and deaf people? Would the people listen to Isaiah (in his time) any more than they would listen to Ezekiel in his day? How do you know this?

Day 4 – Ezekiel, Prophet of God to the People – Ezekiel 1-3

I can just imagine a "Mission Impossible" theme here: God sends Ezekiel a cassette recording or a CD Rom with a message from Him. The recording is triggered to burn up as soon as Ezekiel has heard the message on it. The assignment is to speak God's message to God's people, not a different message and not to a different people. And oh, by the way, he had no choice in whether or not he did the mission.

Tell me why the scroll eaten by "the Son of man" tasted sweet in his mouth when God told him to eat it? Especially when the message written on it was a judgment warning to the people for the consequences of their disobedience and idolatry?

Let's take a look at some other cross-references in Scripture to the eating of the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 8:3

Matthew 4:4

Psalm 19:7-10

What two things did God expect Ezekiel to do once he had received (eaten) the message from God? See Ezekiel 3:10 and 3:11.

What happened to Ezekiel at this point according to Ezekiel 3:12?

Take a look at Ezekiel 1:3, 2:1, 3:14-16, 3:22-24. Can you imagine how overwhelmed Ezekiel must have been? In chapter 1, he saw this vision of God's holiness, His presence, His glory and he fell to the ground. In chapter 2, He's either doubled-over or flat on His face in the dust, when the Presence has to tell him to stand on his feet so that He can speak with him. Now, in chapter 3, the Spirit of God lifts him up and places him with the exiles living beside the River Chebar at Telabib. He sits there for 7 days before he speaks to the people. However, in the mean time, Ezekiel's presence causes anxiety and alarm to the people who are there.

Then, came the word of the LORD "upon" Ezekiel. What must it have been like for Ezekiel to have the hand of the strong on him and word of the LORD come "to" him? See Acts 2:1-13 and answer the following:

Who is this Presence in Acts?

Who is this Presence in Ezekiel?

What form is this Presence taking?

Who is this Presence, this Person?

Isn't this amazing? I have never thought of these two passages of Scripture before in parallel with each other. The Acts passage uses some of the same terminology to describe this Presence as the Ezekiel passage does.

Read again God's appointment of Ezekiel as a watchman in Ezekiel 3:16ff.

How dangerous was it in Jewish culture to claim that you had heard a word from God and that you were speaking on His behalf, "thus says the Lord GOD," that you were in deed a "prophet" of God? See Ezek. 2:4, 3:11, 17, 27 and Deut. 18:20-22.

Let's examine what the word "watchman" really means. Look in your concordance for the corresponding number for the word "watchman" and look up its Hebrew equivalent and the meaning associated with it. What was the job of the watchman? Was he to be

just an informant? A witness? Or was it his job to turn the other person around to right living? In other words, was the watchman's main objective to give a warning or deliver results?

The Hebrew word for "watchman" is "tsaphah." It means to look out or about, spy, keep watch.² As a "watchman," what were the very precise instructions God gave to Ezekiel for which to be on the outlook?

When God says to the wicked, "you shall surely die," and Ezekiel does not warn him nor speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked ways that he may live – then what will happen to the wicked? What will God require of Ezekiel?

When God says to the wicked, "you shall surely die," and Ezekiel does warn him and the wicked one does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way – then what will happen to the wicked? What will happen to Ezekiel?

When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and God places an obstacle before him and Ezekiel does not warn him – then what will happen to that man? What will God require of Ezekiel? Will any of the formerly righteous man's deeds be remembered?

When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and God places an obstacle before him and Ezekiel does warn him that he should not sin and he does not sin – then what will happen to the righteous man and what will happen to Ezekiel?

Day 5 – Personal Application - Ezekiel 1-3

These questions are as much for me as they are for you.

I'd like you to ponder these thoughts about God's glory and His presence with Man:

Who led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery in Exodus 33:12-17?

Can you describe the glory of the Lord filling the temple in 2 Chronicles 6:41-7:3?

² *Zonderman NASB Exhaustive Concordance*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan Publishing House, 2000(?), p. 1461.

Will God ever live amongst us again? See Zechariah 2:10-13.

Do you realize that Jesus was the “radiance of God’s glory,” and the “exact representation of His nature? See Hebrews 1.³

Are we Believers in Christ under the same obligation as the “watchman” Ezekiel or was this particular calling only for Ezekiel? Before you answer, check out Paul’s statement in 2 Tim. 4:7 and Acts 20:26-31. Are we all (in the church) called to evangelism or is evangelism a specific calling for only a few?

Be on guard, be on the alert, be a warning to those who are sinning!

What is God calling you to do that could very well end up looking like you are a failure to the public, your family, your neighbors, your country or your church?

Has God called you to speak to someone about his/her sin? Or would this be “judgmental” and out of line in our politically correct environment? Is there a specific calling for this job? How would you approach something so delicate as pointing out another’s sin?

When its part of the written policy at your place of employment and you’ve been asked not to talk about your “religion,” with fellow employees, if you comply, does this get you off the hook with God?

Were the German people, during WWII, who knew of the atrocities done to the people, but chose not to acknowledge them or to do anything about them, off God’s hook because they were following the will of their “God-ordained” leader?

Are pharmacists off God’s hook when they follow the laws of the land in making aborting agents available for the demands of women seeking to terminate their pregnancies? Do they have any responsibility to follow the laws of the land? How can they go about following God’s law that is written on their hearts and yet not violate the laws that govern their profession? What is the dividing line for them? Are you facing a similar struggle where you work?

³ Ann Spangler, *Praying the Names of God*, USA, Zondervan, 2004, p. 316.2

What about the two obstetricians/gynecologists in California who were recently ordered by the courts to artificially inseminate a lesbian against their personal beliefs? If they had done the procedure, do you think they would be off God's hook because they obeyed the judge's interpretation of the discrimination laws?

Do you think the encouragement, the strengthening Ezekiel gave to the people (week 1) was for the whole house of Israel or only for those individuals who comprised or who would make up the Remnant of that time? What had God seen in both houses of Israel and Judah that would lead Him to raise up first the Assyrians (the northern kingdom - approximately 100 years earlier) and then the Babylonians (the southern kingdom) to take away His people from their land? Would God carry out the judgment sentence on the entire nation including the Remnant who was faithful to Him? Were there already those in Babylon who had been taken captive who were part of the faithful Remnant?

What are your idols? Do you bow before other gods? Do you really believe those other gods exist?

What about immorality, impurity, sensuality, jealousy, envying? Yes, these are the "deeds of the flesh" from Galatians 5, but what do you just love to watch on television or on the movie screen, or what web site do you visit way too often? What book or series of books are so sensuously written that you can't put them down? How about those "cultic" books like the one written on Edward Cayce's prophecies during the early 20th century or the devotional book that Cayce wrote for his followers? Can you follow the predictions of Nostradamus or Velokovsky or read your Zodiac daily and truly stay in tune with the Lord Jesus Christ at the same time? Can you devote yourself to some other person's (Man's, i.e., Buddha) ideals, philosophies and teachings and also be devoted to God at the same time? Check out the wisest man in all of history, Solomon, in his writing of Ecclesiastes. Solomon did not keep himself from any of the pleasures or thoughts that are available for Mankind on this earth. And what happened to him?

Paul says that greed is idolatry in Colossians 3:5. Apart from your relationship with God, what is it for which you long, you covet, you lust? Have you become addicted to the rich taste of eating out? How about that hot new car or the new computer system that is faster and has all the bells and whistles you desire? How about information? Are you addicted to the reading of many books or how about all the news that is available every day? Are any of these "things" inherently sinful, in and of themselves? What makes them sinful?

A recent article on the Internet told of an old Puritan ethic, “living within your means,” as a way to avoid financial calamity. Look at our nation at this point in history: approximately 9.3% of all mortgage loans have defaulted. This is because people have bought houses they cannot afford and because our lending institutions have indiscriminately loaned money to people believing the federal government will bail them out if the housing market should tank. This article goes on to say, “This would be understood in the Puritan era as ‘greed.’ Many are now paying the price for their greediness and failure to live within their means.”⁴ The taxpayer will soon pay the price for their failure to live within their limits, also.

What has become more important to you in your life than time (that rest) spent with God?

To many of these questions, I do not know the answers, either for you or for me. However, I believe we all need to constantly examine ourselves for those sometimes subtle ways the enemy entices us to cross the line that separates us from idolatry.

The God of the Bible, the One who has revealed Himself through the Scripture, is not the same as the one some have fabricated from their own ignorance of the Bible, in their own image, and to whom some call “God.” Beth Moore, in her study on “Believing God,” said the worship of this other “god,” is idolatry. Mohammed pulled some truth from the Bible, some information from the 360 deities that his people worshipped, and then fabricated Allah, one god. Jehovah is not Allah, and the worship of Allah is not the worship of the One True God revealed in Scripture, and is in deed idolatry.

⁴ “The Chickens Come Home,” The Fox Forum, Internet, September 15, 2008.

TIMELINE - PROPHETIC POINTS IN HISTORY

CREATION

Adam & Eve --> Seth --> Noah (Shem) --> God covenants w/ Abram -----> Israel a nation -----> Israel enters land ----->
 (sin) (godly line) (comes out of Egypt)

400 yrs

40 yrs

Domination Neo-Babylonians Persian Empire

400 yrs -----> Time of Judges -----> Time of Kings -----> Captivity in Babylon -----> Return to Land -----> Christ's 1st Coming -----> Return to Land
 (1st Temple - Solomon) (1st Time) (as a man; Suffering Servant) (2nd Time)
 (2nd Temple) (3rd Temple)*

400 yrs

400 yrs

70 yrs

2000 + yrs

Kings Josiah/Jehoikim/Jehoichin/Zedekiah

Prophets Jeremiah in Jerusalem

Daniel in Babylon -1st deportation

Ezekiel in Babylon-2nd deportation

10

7 yrs

1000 yrs

-----> The Rapture -----> Anti-Christ Revealed -----> Tribulation -----> Christ's 2nd Coming -----> Judgment -----> Millennial Kingdom ----->
 (JC comes for church) (3rd Temple)* (as conquering king)

NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

*not certain when Temple will actually be rebuilt

Thus says the Lord GOD

A Guide for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy	The World's Guide for Interpreting Prophecy
<p>-Greek word for prophecy=propheteia; comes from 2 Gk words:¹ “pro” = “forth” “phemi” = “to speak” “speak forth the mind & counsel of God”</p> <p>Predictive prophecy = future fulfillment - Two purposes² -affect the conduct of those who hear the prophecy -to build forth, to establish confidence in the God who miraculously foretold events</p> <p>Two categories -forthtelling - a message about the present or immediate time -foretelling - a message about what God will do in the future</p> <p>Three references -a present or near fulfillment -a future fulfillment -a near future and then a far future fulfillment</p> <p>Seven important things to remember when study prophecy -did not always indicate intervals of time between events -did not always write in chronological order -always approach prophecy as literal unless one of the following occurs: -grammar shows figurative language: similes, metaphors, parables, symbols, type -literal interpretation violates common sense; is contrary to what author is saying or what the rest of Scripture says -when a prophecy cannot be interpreted literally, look for what author trying to say thru the figurative or symbolic language -when prophet refers to future events, does not use future tense -the meaning of the prophecy cannot always be understood by those who heard -look for phrases which indicate time, i.e., “in the last days,” “the day of the LORD,” “day of wrath”</p>	<p>In religion, a prophet (or prophetess) is a person who has encountered the supernatural or the divine & serves as an intermediary with humanity</p> <p>Traditionally, prophets have role in society that promotes change due to their messages and actions</p> <p>Claims of prophets thruout hx: Judaism: a person who speaks as a formal representative of God; intention is always to effect social change “ro’eh” = seer moral teachers egs. Abraham, Moses, Miriam, Isaiah, Samuel, Ezekiel, Malachi, Job, Daniel Deut. 18:18-22 Christianity: seers, speaks for God, in the name of God, carries God’s message to others a message not intended for the body of believers should not be seen as prophecy minimum requirements of true prophet: clear: not vague, 100% accurate, must not contradict Bible some Christians believe prophecy ended w/ closure of canon of Scripture - 400 AD when book of Hebrews accepted NT prophets after death & resurrection of JC: John the Revelator, Peter, Paul some believe those who rec’v visions from God also prophets modern definition - he who spreads God’s truths pentecostal/charismatic beliefs: believe in continuation of gift of prophecy</p> <p>Other movements: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Joseph Smith - believe in succession of living prophets since Smith Seventh-day Adventist Church - Ellen G. White Jehovah Witnesses - follows and explains a book of prophecy; many eschatological forecasts Zoroaster Delphic Oracles Islam: individuals assigned special mission by God to guide humanity, to warn community against evil and urge people to obey God includes Muhammad (last and greatest prophet), Moses, David, Jesus</p>
<p>1 Arthur, Kay, <i>How to Study Your Bible</i> 2 McQuilkin, Robertson, <i>Understanding and Applying the Bible</i></p>	

Called to be God's Prophets

Isaiah-from kingly royalty	Jeremiah-father, a priest	Ezekiel-a priest
<p>Isaiah 6 -Call to be God's Prophet -to whom? Judah and Jerusalem - 1:1 to a people of unclean lips, this people 6:9, a people who keep on listening, but do not perceive, keep on looking, but do not understand, their ears are dull, their eyes are dim, they will not see, nor hear with their ears, nor return and be healed 6:10 -how did he answer his call? by responding to the call of who will go for Us? 6:8. Isaiah said, "send me." -how long was Isaiah to speak to these people? until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people, and the land is utterly desolate 6:11</p>	<p>Jeremiah 1 - called to be God's Prophet -to whom? from King Josiah to the last king of Judah, Zedekiah, until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month. -how God prepared Jeremiah: 1:5 before God formed him in the womb He knew Jeremiah & before he was consecrated, God appointed him a prophet to the nations -what Jer is to do? Everywhere God sends Jer, he shall go, and all that God commands Jer to speak, he shall speak 1:7 -Jer is to pluck up and break down, to destroy and overthrow, build and to plant 1:10 -what God is to do so that Jeremiah can withstand the people:? -Jer is not to be afraid of them for God is with him to deliver him -God put the words of His mouth into Jeremiah's mouth 1:9</p>	<p>Ezekiel 1-2:16 -Call to be God's Prophet -to whom? the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against God, to those who are stubborn and obstinate children, a rebellious house -what Ezekiel is to do? He is being sent to the above whether they listen or not He is to say, "Thus says the Lord GOD." -neither fear the above or their words though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions, neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence -shall speak God's words to them whether they listen or not -do not be rebellious like the rebellious house -open your mouth and eat the scroll (the word of God) feed your stomach and fill your body with the scroll - AND IT WAS SWEET AS HONEY -what God is to do so that Ezekiel can withstand the people: God will make Ezekiel's face as hard as the Israelites, his forehead like flint -what Ezekiel did? see Rev 10:10 for comparison of the sweet and yet bitter scroll</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE PROPHET MUST BE READY TO SPEAK THE TRUTH TO THE PEOPLE - NO MATTER HOW SWEET OR HOW BITTER THE TRUTH IS</p>

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Ezekiel Part 1

Chapter 1

Chapter Theme _____

Ezek. 1:1 Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Ezek. 1:2 (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile,

Ezek. 1:3 the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the LORD came upon him.)

Ezek. 1:4 And as I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.

Ezek. 1:5 And within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.

Ezek. 1:6 Each of them had four faces and four wings.

Ezek. 1:7 And their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze.

Ezek. 1:8 Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them,

Ezek. 1:9 their wings touched one another; their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward.

Ezek. 1:10 As for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man, all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.

Ezek. 1:11 Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another being, and two covering their bodies.

Ezek. 1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went.

Ezek. 1:13 In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire.

Ezek. 1:14 And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.

Ezek. 1:15 Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the earth beside the living beings, for each of the four of them.

Ezek. 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship being as if one wheel were within another.

Ezek. 1:17 Whenever they moved, they moved in any of their four directions, without turning as they moved.

Ezek. 1:18 As for their rims they were lofty and awesome, and the rims of all four of them were full of eyes round about.

Ezek. 1:19 And whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them. And whenever the living beings rose from the earth, the wheels rose also. Ezek. 1:20 Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction. And the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. Ezek. 1:21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still. And whenever those rose from the earth, the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.

Ezek. 1:22 Now over the heads of the living beings there was something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of crystal, extended over their heads. Ezek. 1:23 And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward the other; each one also had two wings covering their bodies on the one side and on the other. Ezek. 1:24 I also heard the sound of their wings like the sound of abundant waters as they went, like the voice of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings. Ezek. 1:25 And there came a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.

Ezek. 1:26 Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man.

Ezek. 1:27 Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him.

Ezek. 1:28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

Chapter 2

Chapter Theme _____

Ezek. 2:1 Then He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet that I may speak with you!”

Ezek. 2:2 And as He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; and I heard Him speaking to me.

Ezek. 2:3 Then He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.

Ezek. 2:4 “And I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children; and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’

Ezek. 2:5 “As for them, whether they listen or not — for they are a rebellious house — they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Ezek. 2:6 “And you, son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house.

Ezek. 2:7 “But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.

Ezek. 2:8 “Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.”

Ezek. 2:9 Then I looked, behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it.

Ezek. 2:10 When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back; and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.

Chapter 3

Chapter Theme _____

Ezek. 3:1 Then He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”

Ezek. 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll.

mEzek. 3:3 And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your stomach, and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.” Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

Ezek. 3:4 Then He said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

Ezek. 3:5 “For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language, but to the house of Israel,

Ezek. 3:6 nor to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. But I have sent you to them who should listen to you;

Ezek. 3:7 yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate.

Ezek. 3:8 “Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

Ezek. 3:9 “Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house.”

Ezek. 3:10 Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I shall speak to you, and listen closely.

Ezek. 3:11 “And go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’”

Ezek. 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me, “Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place.”

Ezek. 3:13 And I heard the sound of the wings of the living beings touching one another, and the sound of the wheels beside them, even a great rumbling sound.

Ezek. 3:14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away; and I went embittered in the rage of my spirit, and the hand of the LORD was strong on me.

Ezek. 3:15 Then I came to the exiles who lived beside the river Chebar at Tel-abib, and I sat there seven days where they were living, causing consternation among them.

Ezek. 3:16 Now it came about at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Ezek. 3:17 “Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

Ezek. 3:18 “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die’; and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

Ezek. 3:19 “Yet if you have warned the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.

Ezek. 3:20 “Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he shall die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Ezek. 3:21 “However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.”

Ezek. 3:22 And the hand of the LORD was on me there, and He said to me, “Get up, go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you.”

Ezek. 3:23 So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face.

Ezek. 3:24 The Spirit then entered me and made me stand on my feet, and He spoke with me and said to me, “Go, shut yourself up in your house.

Ezek. 3:25 “As for you, son of man, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them, so that you cannot go out among them.

Ezek. 3:26 “Moreover, I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you will be dumb, and cannot be a man who rebukes them, for they are a rebellious house.

Ezek. 3:27 “But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth, and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.