

“SON OF MAN, I AM SENDING YOU”

Ezekiel 1-5

Introduction

- 1) **Ezekiel** was a priest of God who was taken into Babylonian captivity in the second deportation of Nebuchadnezzar (1:2; 33:21; 2 Kgs. 24:10-16 – when King Jehoiachin taken captive; 597 BC)
 - a) Eight years after Daniel is taken captive (605 BC); Eleven years before Jerusalem falls (586 BC)
- 2) Book of Ezekiel begins in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s captivity (1:2; 593/592 BC)
 - a) “Thirtieth year” – most likely the age of Ezekiel (1:1); prophesied for 22 years (29:17)
 - i) Born in 622 BC during the reign of King Josiah and about the same age as Daniel
 - b) Ezekiel is with his fellow Jewish captives by the River Chebar in the land of Babylon
 - c) He was married (24:18) and lived in his own house (8:1; cf. Jeremiah’s letter - Jer. 29:1-20)
- 3) The “hand of the Lord was upon him there” – Lord begins to speak to and through Ezekiel

I) A Vision of God (1:4-28)

- A) Figurative, symbolic description of the “glory of the Lord” (v. 28)
 - 1) A whirlwind of fire, out of which comes four living creatures having the likeness of a man, each having four faces and four wings (vv. 4-14)
 - 2) Beside each of the four living creatures was a wheel within a wheel, and a rim full of eyes (vv. 15-21; God can go anywhere and sees all things)
 - 3) An expanse [firmament] above the living creatures, and above the firmament was a throne with the likeness of a man with fire all around Him with the brightness of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day (vv. 22-28; God rules with infinite power)
- B) Human language is inadequate to describe the majestic glory of the almighty God!

II) Ezekiel Commissioned as a Prophet (Ch. 2-3)

- A) “Son of Man” – used over 90 times in the book; emphasize humanity; used by Jesus
- B) “The Spirit entered me when He spoke to me” (cf. 2 Pet. 1:21)
- C) Ezekiel commissioned as a prophet to rebellious, stubborn, impudent Israel (2:3-3:15)
 - 1) Speak a “Thus says the Lord God” so that they will know that a prophet was among them
- D) He must speak God’s word without fear regardless of whether they hear it or refuse it
 - 1) God put His word in his mouth [eat scroll] and makes his head hard [as flint] and he takes his place among the Jewish captives in Babylon (“Ezekiel” = God strengthens)
- E) Ezekiel is to be a “watchman” for Israel – giving warning about dangers (3:16-21)
 - 1) If no warning given, watchman will be held responsible
 - 2) If warning given, watchman’s soul will be delivered
- F) Gospel preachers and teachers must faithfully preach the truth and warn men today

III) A Siege and Sword against Jerusalem (Ch. 4-5)

- A) God has Ezekiel portray the siege against Jerusalem in four ways
 - 1) Clay tablet drawing of Jerusalem with a siege mound and army against it
 - 2) Lie on his left side [for Israel 390 days] and on right side [for Judah 40 days]
 - a) Years of Israel and Judah’s iniquity laid on Ezekiel for him to bear
 - 3) Eat rationed bread and water – symbol of besieged Israelites
 - 4) Cuts hair from head and beard with a sharp sword – burn, cut, and scatter the hair
 - a) Small number of hairs saved, then few burned – a remnant saved but some will be lost
- B) These all portray God’s vengeance and fury to be poured out on Jerusalem for its sins

Conclusion

Ezekiel’s overall message to the captives is that God is the one who sent them into captivity, and He will restore Israel again (14:21-23; 39:28). Let us listen, learn, and be faithful to God!