

All Things Weird and Wonderful

Chapter 9

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #69



Objective: To introduce and understand the person and the writings of the prophet Ezekiel.



“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the Word I speak and give them a warning from me . . . If you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.”

—Ezekiel 3:16-17, 19

Ezekiel was taken into captivity when he was a young man and preached in slave labor camps in Babylon. God did not want His people to be without a prophet, even when they were being disciplined for their sin. Ezekiel’s prophecies are called apocalyptic literature, which means they take us “behind the veil” so we can see what is normally unseen. The book of Ezekiel is filled with prophecies of the future, especially what will happen when God brings an end to human history.

The book of Ezekiel begins with a great vision of God. God gave this vision in order to keep His people from perishing. They no longer had the temple and their holy city, and they had lost their vision of God. Ezekiel actually saw the glory of the Lord and was called to minister to God’s people in a very difficult time and place. Throughout his book, Ezekiel emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit—the presence of God wherever His people happen to be.



1. **True** or false? Ezekiel was the only prophet who ministered directly to the captives in Babylon.
2. True or **false**? Ezekiel was born long after Jeremiah died.
3. **True** or false? Ezekiel's ministry was to stand in the gap between God and His captive people.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Which of these biblical writers were exiles when they wrote? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. **Ezekiel**
 - b. Joshua
 - c. **Daniel**
 - d. Luke
 - e. **John**
5. Match each prophet with the member of the Trinity he emphasizes.

a. Isaiah [ii]	i. the Father
b. Jeremiah [i]	ii. the Son
c. Ezekiel [iii]	iii. the Spirit
6. What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to us if we are His children?
 - a. He is in us.
 - b. He is on us.
 - c. He is with us.
 - d. **All of the above**
7. In what way was Ezekiel like Jeremiah?
 - a. **They both used many visual illustrations.**
 - b. Ezekiel also wrote a book of lamentations.
 - c. They both lived in Babylon with the captives.
 - d. They were the same age.
8. How did many of Ezekiel's sermons come to him?
 - a. On golden tablets
 - b. From the writings of Jeremiah
 - c. **In visions**
 - d. Through his own personal research
9. Which New Testament writer used many of the same symbols and pictures that Ezekiel used?
 - a. Paul
 - b. **John**
 - c. Luke
 - d. Peter

10. To what did Ezekiel compare his role and responsibility?

- a. **A watchman**
- b. An eagle
- c. Broken pottery
- d. A wheel

11. Why did Ezekiel believe he could do what God had called him to do?

- a. He was a very gifted speaker.
- b. He knew the Bible very well and could teach it to others.
- c. He was smarter than the other captives.
- d. **He depended on the Holy Spirit.**



In what ways have you experienced the strength of the Holy Spirit? What responsibilities do you currently have for which you need the Spirit's help?



Thank God that His Spirit will never leave you or forsake you and for His promises to strengthen and equip you to serve Him. Ask Him to lead you and to fill you with His wisdom, strength, and love.



Going Deeper

1. Give several examples of the way Ezekiel used the symbolic act to communicate his messages. _____

2. Show how Jesus used this same method when He began His longest recorded discourse, known as “The Upper Room Discourse.” (John 13-16) _____

3. What would our culture think of a man like Ezekiel if he were to preach his symbolic act sermons today? _____

4. What was the consistent and repeated theme of Ezekiel’s preaching, and why did he continuously emphasize that message? _____

5. Why do you think Daniel, the Apostle John, and Ezekiel preached sermons that emphasized apocalyptic (meaning behind the veil) truths about the future, since they all wrote their books while in exile? _____

6. State how you realize your need to emphasize the Holy Spirit’s work as you accept His call and live to minister in this world for God. _____

7. How should you ask the same Holy Spirit that Ezekiel preached about to help you interpret the weird and wonderful prophecies of Ezekiel? (Consider 1 Corinthians 2: 9-16) _____
