

EZEKIEL 2:1-3:27 – “EZEKIEL SENT TO REBELLIOUS ISRAEL; EZEKIEL IS A WATCHMAN!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

Eze 2:1 And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you."

Eze 2:2 Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me.

Eze 2:3 And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation (goy) that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.

Eze 2:4 For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'

Eze 2:5 As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Eze 2:6 "And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house.

Eze 2:7 You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.

Eze 2:8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and

INTERPRETATION

“Son of Man” – 90+ times; Get up! Stand on your feet! And I, Almighty God, will speak to you!!!

The command of the Word and the power of the Spirit enabled Ezekiel to stand up. The Spirit entered Ezekiel many times, giving him power for the task. (Ez. 2:2; 3:14; 8:3; 11:1, 24; 37:1; 43:5)

The Israelites needed to hear Ezekiel’s messages because they were rebellious (16X), stiff-necked and hard-hearted! They and their fathers!

Nation – “goy” usually reserved for Gentiles! Cf. (Jer. 1:7-10; Acts 9:16)

To the impudent and stubborn (severe, brazen, hard, obstinate, rough, stubborn, refusal to submit) children of Israel, I am sending you! Say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD! (we see here the desire of God)”

Speak, whether they listen or not –although they are rebellious, they will know that a prophet has been sent among them! Is the prophet saying what his opinion is or what God says? (Is. 6:8-13)

Three times Ezekiel is told not to be afraid – of them; of their words, though they be like briers and thorns; of their words or looks – they are a rebellious house! (Is. 41:10)

Ezekiel is to speak regardless of whether they hear or whether they refuse to listen – they are a rebellious lot! (Jer. 1:8; Matt. 10:26, 28, 31)

Now, you, Ezekiel, do not be rebellious like the children of Israel! Open your mouth and eat what I give you!! We need to swallow the message that God gives us! (Job 23:12, Jer. 15:16; Rev. 10:8-10)

APPLICATION

After falling to the ground in wonder and awe, now is the time to stand and listen!

The important thing is to stand obediently before the Lord and to listen to His Word!

Submission versus rebellion. The flesh rebels! The spirit submits!

God is sending Ezekiel the hard, stubborn children of Israel to preface the message – “Thus says the Lord GOD!”

We are to be His witness, whether people listen or not! We are to speak boldly of what God says! God requires obedience, not necessarily success! We need to notice the mercy and grace of God. He continues to speak even though they are impudent and rebellious

Many times we are told in the Bible not to be afraid, especially when we are doing His will!! Don’t be afraid of words or of looks!

We, too, are to proclaim His Word boldly no matter how the listeners respond!

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” His Word is our daily food!! We need to swallow the message that God gives us!

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Eze 2:9 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

Eze 2:10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe.

Eze 3:1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

Eze 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

Eze 3:3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

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

Eze 3:5 For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel,

Eze 3:6 not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

Eze 3:7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.

Eze 3:8 Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads.

INTERPRETATION

When Ezekiel looked there was a hand stretched out with a scroll of a book in it!

There was no good news on the scroll, but written on the inside and the outside were lamentations and mourning and woe! God commanded him to eat the scroll. Ezekiel is told to eat this scroll. Then, go and speak to the house of Israel!

So he is obedient. He opened his mouth and the Lord caused him to eat that scroll. (*Jer. 15:16; Rev. 10:8-10*) He then was instructed to feed his belly, fill his stomach with the scroll that was given. He ate! The taste was as honey in sweetness. It tasted sweet like honey. (*Ps. 19:10; 119:103*)

Now having eaten the scroll, he is to go to the house of Israel and speak the word of the Lord to them.

He is not being sent to a foreign people with a strange language, but to the house of Israel.

A foreigner would have been more likely to listen to a stranger speaking in a foreign tongue. Also other nations had not been exposed to the Word of God; therefore they would not yet have hardened their hearts to it. Reference to Jonah?

They won't listen to you because they won't listen to Me!! All of the house of Israel is obstinate and stubborn. They are hard-hearted. (*1 Sam. 8:7; Acts 22:17-21*)

Because of the opposition that you will face, I have made your face strong against their faces and your forehead against their foreheads.

APPLICATION

We need to be obedient as the LORD directs!

Same description of the scroll as the title deed of the earth in the the Book of Revelation

How we need to be obedient to the Lord! In this instance, not only did the scroll initially taste like honey, there is no evidence of it becoming bitter

We see three important elements here – speaking, receiving (understanding) the message, and obeying!

Often times those who have heard the Word previously have become more hardened to it than those who have not.

The LORD says they won't listen to you because they won't listen to Me!

2 Cor. 12:8-10 – When I am weak then I am strong

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OBSERVATION

Eze 3:9 Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."

Eze 3:10 Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear (be obedient) with your ears."

Eze 3:11 And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse."

Eze 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the LORD from His place!"

Eze 3:13 I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise.

Eze 3:14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

Eze 3:15 Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.

Eze 3:16 Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 3:17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning (admonish) from Me:

Eze 3:18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

INTERPRETATION

Like adamant stone (harder than a diamond), harder than flint, I have made your forehead. Don't be afraid of them or their looks. They are a rebellious bunch.

Receive into your heart and hear all the Words spoken by the Lord GOD!

Go preach the gospel. Set the captives free. Tell them the good news! Whether or not they hear or refuse to hear-go and tell! (Matt. 11:28; Mark 15:15-16)

Lifted up by the Spirit, he heard a great thunderous voice, probably from His multitude of angelic armies. cf. (Is. 6:3) Their message was "Blessed is the glory of the LORD from His place!!! (1 Cor. 10:31) Ezekiel also heard the noise once again from the wings of the cherubim and the wheels beside them. Also a great thunderous noise!

So Ezekiel was taken up by the Spirit. He went in bitterness (distress) and in the heat of my spirit (anger) with the outlook of what lay ahead. He was strongly moved by the hand of the LORD!

He came back to Tel Abib by the River Chebar. There he sat there, astonished, among the Israelites for seven days!

After the seven days, the word of the LORD again came to him.

Ezekiel was told that the LORD had made him to be a watchman for the house of Israel. Therefore hear from the LORD's mouth and pass on the warning to the Israelites.

The blood will be on the watchman's hand if he receives the warning, but doesn't pass on the warning if the wicked man, unwarned, dies in his iniquity. (Gen. 9:5-6)

APPLICATION

He will equip us for every good work!

We are to receive in our hearts and hear with our ears and our hearts all of the Word which the Lord speaks to us!

We are to preach or proclaim the gospel! Whether they hear or not! – Even if it is difficult!

We note here another example of the appearance of the glory of the LORD!

Oh how wonderful it will be to one day hear the thunderous noise of the living creatures and the wheels beside them!

So having seen the glory of the LORD, now Ezekiel is to go to work. We see he is not delighted about it.

Note the seven days of silence, just sitting there in astonishment!

We have the wonderful, but somewhat frightening instruction of being a watchman. What a responsibility for obedience!

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Eze 3:19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Eze 3:20 "Again, when a righteous man (children of Israel) turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Eze 3:21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

Eze 3:22 Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there, and He said to me, "Arise, go out into the plain, and there I shall talk with you."

Eze 3:23 So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face.

Eze 3:24 Then the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and spoke with me and said to me: "Go, shut yourself inside your house.

Eze 3:25 And you, O son of man, surely they will put ropes on you and bind you with them, so that you cannot go out among them.

Eze 3:26 I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and not be one to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house.

Eze 3:27 But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall 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.

INTERPRETATION

However, if you warn the wicked and he doesn't turn from his wickedness or his wicked way and he dies in his iniquity, you will have delivered your soul

Again the same thing is repeated the second time for the righteous, probably an Israelite – if you don't warn the righteous and he dies, his righteousness shall not be remembered, but his blood will be required at your hand!

Nevertheless, if you do warn the righteous that he should not sin and he does not, he shall surely live because he took the warning and you shall have delivered your soul!

There may be a gap between verses 21 and 22. Most likely Ezekiel did give the message to the people there at Tel Abib. He then was instructed Ezekiel to go out to the plain for a talk. As Ezekiel went out he beheld the glory of the LORD there, like the glory which he saw by the River Chebar. His response was the same-he fell on his face!!

Once again the Spirit entered Ezekiel. He was set on his feet and was told to go shut himself inside his own house.

Ezekiel is told the people will bind him with ropes and so he cannot go outside the house.

The LORD will cause Ezekiel to be mute so that he cannot rebuke the people – they indeed are a rebellious lot.

But when the LORD does speak to Ezekiel, He will open his mouth in order to speak saying, "Thus says the Lord GOD! He who hears, let him hear; and he who refused let him refuse!" They are rebellious!

APPLICATION

We need to note well the instructions given to us as watchmen!! We are responsible to warn. The Lord says, "Whether they hear or not is not your responsibility. But our responsibility is to warn. If I say to the wicked, You're going to die, and you don't warn them, they will die in their wickedness, but I'll require their blood at your hand. We're responsible to me, to give them that warning."

We need to speak to the righteous, possibly a believer, that is in sin, as well as the wicked! If we fail to warn, then the blood is on our hands! Now God has not called every one of us to that mission. We all have a ministry, but our ministries vary. With Ezekiel, this was God's commission to Ezekiel. The responsibility, and every minister who is ministering to a group of people has a responsibility to those people, to bring to them the truths of God. God holds that minister responsible. If we are watchmen (His active witnesses), then the blood will not be on our hands.

Here again we see the hand of the LORD on Ezekiel. We need God's power-His enablement! We see Ezekiel's obedience. He again is shown the glory of the LORD. His response – the same as ours should be – is that of total humility – falling on our faces!

We see here, even when led by the Spirit, at times the LORD has us doing things that only He can understand and direct!

What a great effect-being mute for a season, then being allowed to speak in order to tell the people to hear what the LORD is saying to them.

The timing of when we speak is dependent on the LORD!