

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 169--Ezekiel 1:1-3:27

Introduction: Ezekiel, apparently taken into captivity along with Jehoiachin and many others in the second deportation to Babylon (597 b.c.), was called by God to prophesy to the Israelites who dwelt in Babylon. His prophesies are filled with vivid figures of speech and unusual symbolic actions. Prophesying over a period of at least 22 years, he sought to affirm to the Israelites the divine justice in their captivity and offer hope of salvation to come.

Lesson aim: To understand the mission of Ezekiel as prophet to the captive Israelites in Babylon.

Ezekiel receives a vision of God's glory-- Ezekiel 1:1-28

1. When was Ezekiel called to be a prophet? (v. 1-3) Where was he at the time? How does Ezekiel emphasize that his message came from God?
2. Describe the appearance of the vision of God as Ezekiel saw it coming toward him. In the vision, where is Ezekiel located? (cf. 3:12-15) What do you think this part of the symbolic vision is conveying?
3. Describe the living creatures in the vision (v. 5-14). What seems to be their purpose? What do you think they might symbolize?
4. Describe the wheels (v. 15-21). What message might they convey?
5. Describe the throne upon which the Lord sat (v. 26).
6. Describe the appearance of this symbolic picture of the Lord as Ezekiel saw Him (v. 27-28). What features of God are prominent in this vision?

7. What would you say is the significance of this vision as a whole? Why do you think it was revealed to Ezekiel in this way?

Ezekiel is called to prophesy--Ezekiel 2:1-3:27

1. With what term did God commonly address Ezekiel?
(v. 1) How did God characterize His people?
(v. 3-5) What did God say the people would know?
2. What mission did God give to Ezekiel? (v. 6-8)
What warning did He issue to him?
3. God's message was given to Ezekiel in what form?
(2:8-3:3) Describe the scroll. What did it contain? How did the scroll taste to Ezekiel?
4. To whom did God say He was sending the prophet?
(v. 4-7) How had God equipped Ezekiel to deal with the stubborn Israelites? (v. 8-11) What did God tell him to do?
5. What role was Ezekiel to occupy among God's people? (3:17) What did God say he must do?
6. What warnings and assurances did God give to Ezekiel in view of his mission? (v. 18-21)
7. What command did God give to the prophet? (v. 24) How did God say the people would treat Ezekiel? (v. 25)
8. What did God reveal he would do to the prophet from time to time? (v. 26-27) What was Ezekiel obligated to do when his tongue was loosed by God?