

## Ezekiel Week 41

### Blessing or Judgment:

One purpose of the book of Ezekiel is to remind us about the presence of God and His absolute authority and control over all things. God commands that His people remain faithful to Him and walk in humble obedience to His will, and then He will be with us and bless us. Judah had been in the sin cycle for quite some time. They knew they were God’s chosen people and did not believe that there would be a time when God would not be with them. Disloyal, adulterous, and rebellious people should stand in fear of God’s judgment. The people had the option to obey God or please themselves. We have the same choice and just like them we will reap blessings or judgment. Ezekiel 18:4 makes it very clear “The soul who sins is the one who will die”. Then in Ezekiel 18:32 we learn “For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”

### Introduction:

The nation of Judah was disloyal to God and His judgment on them came through the heathen nation of Babylon just as over one hundred years earlier God judged the Northern Kingdom through the Assyrians. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem, captured its king, Jehoiachin, and 10,000 other leaders and people and took them as captives to live in Babylon. The first group of captives (including Daniel & others of noble birth) was taken in 605 BC, the second group (including King Jehoiachin & Ezekiel) in 597 BC, and the third group (including Israel’s last king, Zedekiah) in 586 BC. Ezekiel prophesied during the period between the second & third phases of captivity. There were many false prophets telling the people what their itching ears wanted to hear: that Jerusalem would quickly be delivered and Babylon destroyed.

Into this situation came Ezekiel, who had been preparing for the priesthood in the temple at Jerusalem. Priests were consecrated at age 30, but Ezekiel was taken into captivity at the age of 25. Ezekiel’s name means “God will strengthen”. It is derived from the Hebrew Yechezk’El. Yechezk means he will make strong and El is a name of God. His father was Buzi, a Zadokite priest. [Refresh your memory of Zadok by reading 1 Kings 1:8, 32. In the future the sons of Zadok will serve as priests of God in Ezekiel’s temple. Ezekiel 44:15 & 16.]

After his captivity, Ezekiel lived in a town near the Chebar (Ke-bar), an artificial canal which flowed from the Euphrates River. Its modern name is Shatten Nil. Ezekiel began prophesying to the exiles on July 31, 593 BC, when he was 30 years old (verse 1). For the next twenty years Ezekiel spoke the truth as God presented it to him. Ezekiel warned that Jerusalem would be totally destroyed along with the temple.

Read Psalm 137 to get an idea of the feelings of the people during their time of captivity.

### Day One: The Magnificent Beings

In these passages notice the word “likeness” used by Ezekiel; it indicates Ezekiel’s inability to adequately describe what he saw. Read carefully & thoughtfully & try to place yourself standing beside Ezekiel. One day you will see with your own eyes.

1. Ezekiel 1:1 tells us that the heavens were opened. Here are two other occasions when the heavens were opened: Matthew 3:16 & Acts 7:56. What do you think this means?

---

---

---

Key Verse: Ezekiel 18:30 ...”I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent!

2. Describe the beings in Ezekiel 1:5- 14

---

---

---

3. Who were these magnificent beings? Ezekiel 10:20

---

---

---

4. What was one of their duties? Genesis 3:24

---

---

5. Where did these creatures derive their direction, power, life? Who should direct our lives?  
Ezekiel 1:12 & 20

---

---

---

There are several explanations of the four faces; a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. Here are some:

A. Man is made in God’s image, the highest of God’s creatures. The lion is considered the king of the wild beasts. The ox is the strongest of the tame creatures and the eagle is the greatest of the birds.

B. The rainbow is referenced in Ezekiel 1:28 and it is the symbol of God’s promise not to destroy the world by water again. God gave this promise to a man (Noah), an eagle (the birds), the ox (livestock), and the lion (wild animals).

C. These symbols could refer to the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ represented in the four gospels. Matthew was written to the Jews and presents Christ as a Lion, the Messiah. Mark was written to the Romans and pictures Christ as an Ox, the Servant. Luke was written to the Greeks and portrays Christ as the perfect Man, and John was written to the entire world and pictures Christ as the Eagle, the mighty God.

Prayer: Father, your word says that if anyone should lack wisdom they are to ask you and it will be given to them. I ask for the wisdom to understand your word that you gave Ezekiel and apply it to my life. Amen.

### Day Two: The Glory of the Lord

God is called Lord God, (Sovereign Lord, Almighty Lord, Adonay Yahweh) over 200 times in the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel is referred to as “son of man” (ben-adam) 93 times in this book. The term means “man” or “mortal man” or “human being”; in other places in the Bible it is a Messianic title for Jesus, Son of Man.

Key Verse: Ezekiel 18:30 ...”I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent!

6. Describe the throne & the figure upon it. Ezekiel 1:26-28

---

---

---

7. What caused Ezekiel to fall on his face? How about you? How was Ezekiel able to rise?  
Ezekiel 2:1 & 2

---

---

---

8. Ezekiel 2:3. What was Ezekiel’s reaction to the voice? How should we react to the word of God?

---

---

---

9. Why did God send such an amazing vision to Ezekiel? Ezekiel 2:3-6 & 5:6-9

---

---

---

10. This was Ezekiel’s call to ministry. Read 2 Timothy 4:2 and describe our call to ministry.

---

---

---

Prayer: O LORD, as I recall Ezekiel’s description of you may I be filled with awe as I enter into your presence in prayer. Cause me to listen carefully to your words. Cause me to live in a manner that reveals your presence within me. Amen.

### Day Three: The Reason for the Vision

The phrase “the word of the LORD came” is used fifty times in the book of Ezekiel. This emphasizes that Ezekiel was not speaking for himself; he was being led by God. What do we do when God speaks to us? Do we follow Ezekiel’s example & obey God even if it seems outrageous to us? Ezekiel went to great extremes to proclaim the message from the LORD to the people as exemplified by twelve symbolic acts beginning in chapter 4. How many people today would go to such extremes to proclaim the word of the LORD?

Key Verse: Ezekiel 18:30 ...”I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent!

11. What terrible news did God tell Israel? Ezekiel 5:8 and 7:3,4, 5, & 22a & 24

---

---

---

12. What can we do to prevent God from saying this to our country?

---

---

---

13. What does God say will be the result of His judgment? 7:4b & 9b

---

---

---

14. What will everyone acknowledge one day? Philippians 2:10

---

---

---

15. Ezekiel received his commission from God to speak to Israel. Who gives us our commission and what is it? Matthew 28:19 & 20

---

---

---

Prayer: O Father, my heart is burdened for our nation because it is just as sinful as Judah and Israel. Help us heed the warnings from your prophets. Rouse our churches to speak out for you and be obedient to your commands. Amen.

Day Four: Corruption in the Temple

16. What figure did Ezekiel see and where did it take Ezekiel? Ezekiel 8:1-4

---

---

---

Key Verse: Ezekiel 18:30 ...”I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent!

17. What did Ezekiel discover when he dug through the wall? 8:8-11

---

---

---

18. Why were the elders unconcerned? 8:12

---

---

---

19. What other abomination did he see? 8:14

---

---

---

20. What was God’s verdict? 8:18

---

---

---

Prayer: Father, my heart is burdened for the churches in our nation. Send revival and send it now before it is too late. Amen.

Day Five: Judgment

21. What sad event was Ezekiel observing in Ezekiel 9:3a & 18-19?

---

---

---

22. What was done to some of the people? Ezekiel 9:1-4

---

---

---

23. Compare the occurrence in question 8 to Revelation 7:3; 9:4, (13:16 & 17 is a different mark)

---

---

---

Key Verse: Ezekiel 18:30 ...”I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent!

24. Where was the judgment to begin? Why was this place chosen? Ezekiel 9:6b

---

---

---

25. What message should we, as Christians, glean from this passage? See Ezekiel 3:18-20 for God’s word to Ezekiel concerning the seriousness of his calling.

---

---

---

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, cause us to be ever mindful of our role as ambassadors for Christ in our day-to-day walk through life. Amen.