

A photograph of a person standing on a rocky cliff at sunset, viewed through a cave opening. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with a body of water and distant mountains visible in the background. The cave's interior is dark, creating a strong contrast with the bright light outside.

Courage for
living for God
in difficult
times: Ezekiel

Ezekiel Overview

- Section 1 Chapters 1-24: Challenges the over-confident Judeans about God's presence in the temple and certain judgement against the city and its temple.
- Section 2 Chapters 25-32: Are announcements of judgement on Israel, the nearby nations and on Jerusalem.
- Section 3 Chapters 33-48: Are announcements of hope, for Israel, for the nations and for all creation.

Psalm 137

- “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; They said ‘sing us songs of Zion’ ! How can we sing songs of the Lord while in a foreign land’?”

Ishtar Gate Babylon- Berlin Museum



Ezekiel Chapter 1 Verses 25-28

- “Then there came a voice from the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that, from what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and a brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it I fell face down, and I heard the voice of one speaking”..

Ezekiel Chapter 3 Verses 16-19

- At the end of seven days the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel, so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, ‘you will surely die’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself”.

Ezekiel Chapter 8 Verses 5-6

- “And he said to me, ‘Son of man, look toward the north. So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the alter I saw this idol of jealousy. And he said to me, son of man, do you see what they are doing-the utterly detestable things the Israelites are doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see things that are even more detestable”.

Ezekiel Chapter 11 Verses 16-19

“Therefore say, this is what the sovereign Lord says ‘I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone. Therefore say, this is what the sovereign Lord says; I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered and I will give you back the land of Israel again. They will return to it and remove all the vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them. I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh”

Song of national repentance- Graham Kendrick

- Who can sound the depths of sorrow in the father heart of God,
- For the children we've rejected, for the lives so deeply scarred.
- And each light that we've extinguished, has brought darkness to our land.
- Upon our nation, upon our nation, have mercy Lord.
- We have scorned the truth you gave us, we have bowed to other lords
- We have sacrificed the children on the alters of our gods
- Oh let truth again shine on us, let your holy fear descend,
- Upon our nation, upon our nation, have mercy Lord.

Ezekiel Chapter 36 Verse 22

- Therefore say to the Israelites, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake , people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes”.

Ezekiel Chapter 37 Verses 4-10

“Then he said to me prophesy to these bones and say to them, dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the sovereign Lord says to these bones; I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

- I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath into you and you will come to life. Then you will know I am the Lord.

- “So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked and tendons and flesh appeared on them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, prophesy to the breath; prophesy son of man and say to it “this is what the sovereign Lord says ‘come breath from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army”.

Hebrews 4 Verse 14

- THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FIRMLY TO THE FAITH WE PROFESS.

Lessons for us from Ezekiel

- God will always achieve His divine purposes: Yahweh has spoken:
- God cannot ignore sin. It is either forgiven (His preference) or it is punished:
- The nations, all nations are ultimately accountable to Him:
- The Holy Spirit can breathe life into that which is lifeless:
- The Lord preserved a Jewish remnant in order to bless the whole world through the death and resurrection of His Son:
- All life-giving renewal in the church or the world flow directly from the presence of God and is not something we generate or control: