

- I) V1-5 INTRO: And He said to me Son of man, stand on your feet and I will speak to you
  - a) Ezekiel is a 30-year old priest who has just had an incredible spiritual experience
    - 1) He has seen the majesty and the glory of God
  
- II) IN THE MIDST: Of one of the most incredible cities in the world, God has revealed Himself
  - a) Ezekiel could see some of the most amazing architecture that the world had ever seen
    - 1) This amazing beauty could have seduced Ezekiel into loving the grandeur of the world
  
- III) FACT: Natural and man made beauty has an appeal that many people succumb to
  - a) Ezekiel had a higher sense of beauty, and an awareness of a greater glory
    - 1) 1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
  
- IV) EZEKIEL: Saw something far greater than anything man could construct
  - a) His faith gave him sight to see something far more glorious
    - 1) Heb 11: 9-10 By faith (Abraham) dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God
    - 2) Heb 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; *for he looked to the reward.*
  
- V) EZEKIEL: Had been shown something that revealed the glory of God
  - a) He had seen angels called cherubim, who were recognized to be a throne-chariot
    - 1) Ps 18:10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.
  
- VI) KEY: He also saw the throne of God, and the appearance of a Man (Messiah)
  - a) Around him was a rainbow: reminding us of God's mercy and grace
    - 1) HIS RESPONSE: He fell on his face and heard the voice of God
  
- VII) V1 AND: He said to me Son of man, stand on your feet and I will speak to you
  - a) SON OF MAN: Normal way of addressing a person: used in Ezekiel around 90 times
    - 1) IN DANIEL: It is used in a different way, referring to Messiah (Dan 7:13)
    - 2) It is in this way Jesus referred to Himself some 80 times in the gospels
  
- VIII) V1 STAND: On your feet and I will speak to you
  - a) Ezekiel is on his face, and the Lord tells him to get up: God is about to commission him
  
- IX) V2-3 THEN *THE SPIRIT ENTERED ME*: When He spoke to me and set me on my feet and I heard Him
  - a) When God calls you, He finds it necessary to equip you with power to perform what He commands
    - 1) The most important thing for us to understand is our utter need for His power
    - 2) 2 Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,
    - 3) 2 Co 4:7 We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
  
- I) V3 AND: He said to me Son of man I am sending you to the children of Israel to a *rebellious nation*

- a) God is now telling Ezekiel what his ministry will be
  - 1) He is going to speak to rebellious, transgressing, impudent, and stubborn people
  - 2) NATION: Goy, usually used when referring to gentiles (pagans, heathens)
  
- II) KEY: Throughout her history, Israel continually rebelled against the Lord
  - a) Eventually the 10 northern tribes were scattered by Assyria, and the 2 southern tribes were exiled
    - 1) Jer 2:13 For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.
    - 2) Is 30:10 (They) say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.
  
- III) V4-5 FOR: They are impudent (hardened, obstinate) and stubborn children. I am sending you to them
  - a) They literally are hard of face, and hard of heart: They are shameless in their sinfulness
    - 1) This is the kind of people you will be speaking to: unreceptive and hardened by sin
    - 2) STILL: God's word will be found to be true, and will come to pass revealing his call
  
- IV) V6-7 AND: You son of man do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words though briers
  - a) You have a commission: be faithful to deliver the message I have entrusted to you
    - 1) It is one thing to speak to a group of people who by and large agree with you
    - 2) You will speak to those who will obviously resist and will physically injure you
  
- V) V7 YOU: Shall speak My words to them whether they hear or whether they refuse for they are rebellious
  - a) INTERESTINGLY: These were the same people Jeremiah was called to prophesy to
    - 1) Jer 1:8-9 Do not be afraid of their faces, for I *am* with you to deliver you," says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
  
- VI) THOUGHT: You are a steward of My message, so remain faithful to Me and deliver it
  - a) 1 Co 4:1-2 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.
  
- VII) V8 BUT YOU: Son of man hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house
  - a) Do not show the same attitude of rebellion that this nation shows
    - 1) If you are going to be effective at all, you must be faithful (which contrasts with their rebellion)
  
- VIII) V9-10 NOW: When I looked there was a hand stretched out to me and behold a scroll of a book
  - a) Scrolls were normally written on one side only: this reveals a tremendous judgment coming
    - 1) Lamentations, mourning, and woe
  
- IX) CH 3:1-3 MOREOVER: He said to me Son of man eat what you find eat this scroll and go speak
  - a) As God's messenger, Ezekiel first must partake of God's truth, *internalize it*, and then preach it
    - 1) 1 Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you
  
- X) V3 AND: He said to me Son of man feed your belly and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you
  - a) Though the message is one of judgment, the scroll is sweet because it is God's word
    - 1) Ps 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
  
- I) KEY: It tasted sweet because it is God's word, and vindicated God's holiness and righteousness
  - a) This is something that also resonated in the heart of Jeremiah

1) Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

II) V4-6 THEN: He said to me son of man go to the house of Israel and *Speak with My words* to them

a) Ezekiel was to know that he did not invent the message, but was simply to deliver it

1) 1 Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

III) INTERESTINGLY: God makes it clear that he is not going on a foreign mission

a) If he were, they would be more receptive to his message

1) POINT: You are speaking to those who already have heard, and have rebelled and rejected

IV) SOMETIMES: Unbelievers are more open to the gospel than so-called believers

a) There are entire nations that are hardened to the gospel: Europe is a good example of this

1) The US is rapidly moving in to such a mindset: nominal believers in God

2) Even the church is not willing to hear God's word:

V) V7 BUT: The house of Israel will not listen to you because they will not listen to Me

a) Ezekiel, your work and efforts will amount to nothing: your ministry is going to be a failure

1) Their exile and affliction has not softened them or opened them up for repentance

2) Instead of recognizing their captivity as the result of rebellion, they will resist the message

VI) V8-9 BEHOLD: I have made your face strong against their faces and your forehead strong

a) I will make you strong, even as your name implies: Ezekiel, God strengthens

1) Your faithfulness to Me will be stronger than their unfaithfulness to Me

2) Is 50:7-9 For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

VII) V10-11 MOREOVER: He said to me Son of man receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you

a) The nation is going to overwhelmingly disagree with you, so be careful to receive My words

1) You can be tempted to water down what God says because people are so resistant

2) Speak to them, and leave the results to Me

VIII) V12-14 THEN: The Spirit lifted me up and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice Blessed is

a) God gives him a picture of His glory, and fills him with a desire to preach the message

1) He goes in bitterness of spirit because this is what God is experiencing with the nation

2) Micah 3:8 But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

IX) V15 THEN: I came to the captives at Tel Abib who dwelt by the River Chebar

a) Interestingly, he begins his ministry not with speaking, but with compassionate suffering with them

I) V16-19 NOW: It came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me

a) Watchman: His primary duty was to warn people when the enemy approached

1) At night, the gates were closed and the watchman stood alertly watching and listening

2) Is 62:6 I have set watchmen upon your walls, O Jerusalem that will never hold their peace, day or night

II) **HIS MESSAGE:** A warning that judgment is coming from the Lord

a) It is not like the false prophets, who are crying out that everything is fine

1) Jer 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

2) Going verse by verse instructs and protects the sheep, and warns them of danger

III) **V20 AGAIN:** When a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity

a) This righteous man is not one who is truly righteous but one who appears righteous

1) In the midst of a sin filled nation, there would be people who had an outward righteousness

2) His righteousness is not remembered because he was not truly right before God

3) God allows circumstances to draw out the governing principle of his life

IV) **V21 NEVERTHELESS:** If you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin

a) Some heed God's word, repent, and are saved

V) **V22-24 THEN:** The hand of the Lord was upon me there and He said to me Arise go out into the

a) He goes into a plain, and receives the final words of his commission

1) At first, he refrains from public ministry by going to his home

VI) **V25 AND YOU:** O son of man surely they will put ropes on you and bind you with them so that you

a) This is more than likely spiritual, in a sense that they will try to stifle his preaching

VII) **V26-27 I WILL:** Make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth so that you shall be mute

a) You will speak only when I permit you to do so

1) You are not to speak from personal concern, anger, or motivation but by My direction

2) The only thing that you will say to them is the Word from Me