

**Wednesday Night, Survey Service: Week 63****Ezekiel 1 - 16****James 3 - 5, 1 Peter 1 - 2****Ezekiel 1: I saw visions****Key Point:**

The glory of God is a riot of color and power and sound that can hardly be described, but, when experienced, no one will be able to stand.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 1:1 (NLT)**

On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

**Ezekiel 2: Speak, they won't listen (10 verses)****Key Point:**

Whether people hear or not, the faithful must be willing to proclaim God's true Word without fear.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 2:6 (NLT)**

"Son of man, do not fear them or their words. Don't be afraid even though their threats surround you like nettles and briars and stinging scorpions. Do not be dismayed by their dark scowls, even though they are rebels.

**Ezekiel 3: Ezekiel's commission****Key Point:**

We have an obligation to speak the truth in love. If a person will not hear it, that is not on us, but if we don't speak it and they stumble, then they will be judged but we will be also.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 3:11 (NLT)**

Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not.'

**Ezekiel 4: A visual of the siege****Key Point:**

God will use graphic illustrations and shocking examples to jolt the hearts of people to listen and apply God's word.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 4:1 (NLT)**

“And now, son of man, take a large clay brick and set it down in front of you. Then draw a map of the city of Jerusalem on it.

**Ezekiel 5: God will judge****Key Point:**

The judgments of God are certain, and they are terrible, but He will avenge His holiness.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 5:8 (NLT)**

Therefore, I myself, the Sovereign Lord, am now your enemy. I will punish you publicly while all the nations watch.

**Ezekiel 6: They will know I am!****Key Point:**

When the pagan high places are destroyed, people will recall that God said it would happen and then know that He is indeed the one true God.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 6:10 (NLT)**

They will know that I alone am the Lord and that I was serious when I said I would bring this calamity on them.

**Ezekiel 7: Disaster is coming****Key Point:**

God’s judgment is always what people have deserved and earned by their wickedness, but God’s judgment is not tame – it is terrible.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 7:5 (NLT)**

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Disaster after disaster is coming your way!

**Ezekiel 8: Vision of abominations****Key Point:**

God is fully aware of what people do in secret, and the abominations they commit make Him furious.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 8:3 (NLT)**

He reached out what seemed to be a hand and took me by the hair. Then the Spirit lifted me up into the sky and transported me to Jerusalem in a vision from God. I was taken to the north gate of the inner courtyard of the Temple, where there is a large idol that has made the Lord very jealous.

**Ezekiel 9: Mark of the remnant**

**Key Point:**

God knows the hearts of all people, so He will clearly designate those who are with Him from those who are not.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 9:4 (NLT)**

He said to him, “Walk through the streets of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of all who weep and sigh because of the detestable sins being committed in their city.”

**Ezekiel 10: The cherubim**

**Key Point:**

God’s glory and presence will not contend with divided loyalty, and, in the case of a hypocritical heart, God’s presence will prepare to depart.

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**Key Verse - Key Verse: Ezekiel 10:3 (NLT)**

The cherubim were standing at the south end of the Temple when the man went in, and the cloud of glory filled the inner courtyard.

**Ezekiel 11: The glory departs**

**Key Point:**

The Spirit of God left the temple in Ezekiel’s day, but God has not abandoned the people of Israel. He will gather them and refine them.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 11:23 (NLT)**

Then the glory of the Lord went up from the city and stopped above the mountain to the east.

**Ezekiel 12: Ezekiel’s example**

**Key Point:**

God will answer the objections of men and He will show that His Word will come to pass.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 12:15 (NLT)**

And when I scatter them among the nations, they will know that I am the Lord.

**Ezekiel 13: False prophets and prophetesses****Key Point:**

People who use false means of magic or omens to supposedly divine God's will do great damage and God will judge them harshly.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 13:3 (NLT)**

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: What sorrow awaits the false prophets who are following their own imaginations and have seen nothing at all!

**Ezekiel 14: It's a heart thing****Key Point:**

Those who cling to God may have to endure the judgment upon a nation, but their righteousness will only save themselves and won't dissuade that judgment from coming upon the whole nation.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 14:3 (NLT)**

"Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their hearts. They have embraced things that will make them fall into sin. Why should I listen to their requests?"

**Ezekiel 15: As the wood of the vine****Key Point:**

We should never think too highly of ourselves because if we rebel against the Lord we are little better than firewood.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 15:6 (NLT)**

"And this is what the Sovereign Lord says: The people of Jerusalem are like grapevines growing among the trees of the forest. Since they are useless, I have thrown them on the fire to be burned.

**Ezekiel 16: You forgot your past****Key Point:**

God sees the unfaithfulness of people toward Him in graphic terms, so we cannot ever afford to minimize the ugliness of the sins our Lord has cleansed us of.

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**Key Verse - Ezekiel 16:15 (NLT)**

“But you thought your fame and beauty were your own. So you gave yourself as a prostitute to every man who came along. Your beauty was theirs for the asking.

**James 3: Wisdom is self control**

**Key Point:**

The control we have over our tongue shows the wisdom, or lack thereof, in our lives because God’s wisdom is pure and peaceable and will affect how we conduct ourselves.

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**Key Verse - James 3:13 (NLT)**

If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

**James 4: Resist, draw near**

**Key Point:**

Elevating our self-interests to obtain worldly, temporary things is a form of idolatry that God will judge. But if you humble yourselves, seriously follow him, and watch our conduct towards each other, we will be lifted up.

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**Key Verse - James 4:8 (NLT)**

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

**James 5: Rich fools, patient people**

**Key Point:**

The inequities and sufferings of this life will be made right in the end, so consider your ways in the present. Stay in prayer, stay humble, and be patient through trials.

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**Key Verse - James 5:8 (NLT)**

You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

**1 Peter 1: Be Holy, salvation is near**

**Key Point:**

We are saved by faith, so we need to endure trials, be serious about our faith, and cognizant of how our faith is rooted all the way back into the old testament.

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**Key Verse - 1 Peter 1:15 (NLT)**

But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

**1 Peter 2: Doing good silences fools****Key Point:**

We are now foreigners on this earth, so we need to live as a witness of our true King, never using grace as a license to sin, and being good citizens.

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**Key Verse - 1 Peter 2:15 (NLT)**

It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.