

# Ezekiel 1-3 – 19 April 2015

## Introduction –

- Daniel taken in 1<sup>st</sup> captivity, Ezekiel taken in 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Jerusalem didn't fall until the 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Ezekiel was asked to prophecy to people who thought they were going right back to Jerusalem
- This book begins w/ warning of the fall of Jerusalem then turns to its restoration.
  - Why tell the people? Comfort that God's still in control. Witness that people can still turn to Him.

Charles Francis Adams, 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today--a day wasted." His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father--the most wonderful day of my life!" The father thought he was wasting his time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time. The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly.

## **What is your ultimate purpose...**

Just to have a “get out of hell free card”?

Just to worship God?

Just to worship God and have fellowship with Christians?

**...or is there more that involves a permanent change in character in our lives?**

**How deep are we willing to dive for God? Let's just SETTLE it right now!**

We'll look at 1) Spiritual Enlightenment being given from God 2) Tremendous Tasks given from God and 3) their Lasting Effects

**Chapter 1 – Spiritual Enlightenment from God (understanding God's word)**

Intro – Chap 1

- We're given S.E. thru God's Word, in Ezekiel's day he received this heavenly vision.
- Just as John and Isaiah, he had to describe the heavenly by using earthly language.

Vs 1-3

- 30<sup>th</sup> yr – his age? Jesus was 30; the age of a priest
- 5<sup>th</sup> yr – 5 yrs after 2<sup>nd</sup> captivity
- “The hand of the Lord was....” – used x7 in Ezekiel

Vs 4-14

- Living Creatures
  - Described in Eze 10 and called Cherubim
  - Same as described in John's Rev 4:6
  - Cherub guarded Garden of Eden/Satan called one

- Four faces – Same as in Exe 10 and Rev 4
  - Four Gospels
    - Matthew – Lion of the Tribe of Judah
    - Mark – The Servant or sacrificial animal – Ox
    - Luke – The Son of Man
    - John – The eagle from heaven

### Vs 15-21

- What's the wheels purpose? Spirit of the creatures is in the wheels. Don't really know.
- Understand all heavenly imagery? No
  - It shows God's revelation and unveiling of Himself to someone!
  - Shows God's great glory and activity!

### Vs 22-28

- “Fell on my face”: only right response when God reveals Himself. Go read Rev 4 & fall on your face!

### Close – Chap 1

- S.E. causes worship and meditation about the revelation...but is that all it's meant for??? **Let's dive deeper!!!!**

Chapter 2:1-3:21 – Tremendous Task from God – Hear and Give (go witness / don't rebel – then they'll be without excuse)

Intro – Chap 2:1-3:21

- S.E. should lead us to the knowledge that God has a work for us to be a part of.
  - God revealed Himself to Moses at burning bush – now go deliver the people of Israel.
  - God revealed Himself to Saul/Paul blinding him – now “Arise and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
- What tremendous tasks does God have you a part of?

Chap 2

- Vs 5
  - They cannot deny that I'm still wanting to aid and help even if they refuse!
  - Ezekiel isn't to see the goal of his preaching as winning many people. The goal is to be obedient to God sending him to preach.
- Vs 8 – Don't become stubborn like them. Just preach regardless of their response and YOU WIN!
- As we're doing the Tremendous Tasks that God has for us...praise God we're not responsible for what

others do or how they react. We're responsible to fully obey God!

## Chap 3:1-9

- The roll is God's Word; go give it to the people.
  - God's Tremendous Tasks aren't geared around;
    - Programs that grow religious buildings
    - Our opinions.
    - Gaining earthly results or millions of converts
  - God's T. T. are geared around giving His Word faithfully!
- Vs 6 –Familiarity breeds contempt.(Read Matt 11:21)

## Vs 10-14

- God's T.T. can be hard and physically take it out of you!
  - That's when you need faith; to know it's worth it!
- Vs 14 – “Hand of God was strong upon me”. What a blessing! (II Chr 16:9 – Eyes of the Lord...strong...)

## Vs 15-21

- 18-19 – toward the wicked
- 20-21 – toward the righteous
- Ezekiel's job
  - He has to warn the people.

- He has to warn the people not convince them.
- Col 1:28 – Whom we preach, warning every man

Close – Chap 2:1-3:21

- These T.T. take our worship & meditation into action doing great things...but is that all it's meant for??  
**Let's dive deeper!!!!**

Chapter 3:22-27 – Lasting Effects

Intro – Chap 3:22-27

- T.T should have Lasting Effects and change us permanently!
- You know we can do things for God and actually be worse off for it?
  - You ever seen someone “witness” for God and be MORE prideful afterward.
  - You ever seen someone come to church only to lust after a girl...or boy.
- T.T. should be affecting others but changing us from the inside out.

Vs 22-27

- Vs 22-23 – We become more of a worshipper

- We see God in every situation.
- We worship God thru every circumstance.
- Vs 24-27
  - Obedience to go or speak becomes a lifestyle.

## Conclusion –

- If you've already dived into the waters of Christianity, you're already wet!
  - This means the world already hates you.
  - God has His mercy upon you.
  - **Make the most of being wet!**

S.E. – Many, many Christians never dive deeper than being a pew sitter.

- They receive God's Word and yet still want to be able to peek their head out of the water to see what the world is doing.

T.T. – Most Christians never dive deeper than doing activities or rituals for God.

- They're doing Christian activities with their eyes on how great of a swimmer they are, instead of on the wonderful Maker of the water.

L.E. – Few ever experience this day by day, week by week internal change in their life.

- They're swimming deep, trusting by faith that God will give them every breath that they need.

What type of Christian are you going to be today? Won't you SETTLE it?