



K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Remember how the people in the southern kingdom of Judah were captured and taken from their homes to Babylon? God gave the people hope, though, when the prophet Jeremiah said God would bring them back home after 70 years.

We've been talking about some of the Jews living in Babylon during those 70 years. We learned about Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were chosen to serve the Babylonian king. Although they were living in a foreign country with many false gods, Daniel and his friends stayed obedient to the Lord; and he was faithful to protect them—even while they faced dangers like a fiery furnace and a den of hungry lions!

Put several unfamiliar objects (e.g., kitchen gadgets; gardening, sewing, or mechanic's tools) into a box or bag for students to describe. We're going to start today's lesson with a game. I have several objects in this box/bag that most of you may not have seen before. I'm going to ask someone to choose an object and describe it to us. That means he will tell us things such as its shape, its color, if it has moving parts, or if it's something he's seen someone use before. And we'll all try to help him figure out what it is. Choose a volunteer to pick one object out of the box/bag and show it to the class. Help him describe the object by asking questions about it. Give hints to the class to help them figure out what the object is used for.

That was fun learning about these new things. But sometimes it was hard to describe some of the objects, wasn't it? If you don't know what something is or haven't seen it before, it can be hard to tell someone about it.

In our lesson today, we're going to learn about three men who saw new things they had never seen before. God gave these three men visions, which are kind of like dreams, of heaven and his glory. These men did their best to describe the wonderful things they saw. Let's read about what it was like when they saw God's awesome glory.

Ezekiel's Vision

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to start with a prophet named Ezekiel. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note.

Ezekiel 1:1

Listen to Ezekiel 1:1 so you can tell me what happened. Read the verse.

- ? What did Ezekiel see opening up? *The heavens.*
- ? And he saw visions of whom? *Visions of God.*

Ezekiel 1:4

Let's read more in Ezekiel 1:4. Read the verse.

- ? What things did Ezekiel see in his vision? *A great cloud with brightness around it, flashing fire, and gleaming metal.*

Wow! Remember, Ezekiel had never seen things like these before, so they were hard for him to describe. There were bright colors, fire and lightning, and even creatures that looked like men, lions, oxen, and eagles—all at the same time!

Then Ezekiel saw something that looked like a throne made from sapphire, a beautiful blue jewel. And above this throne, Ezekiel saw what looked like a man who was shining with fire and brightness.

Ezekiel 1:28

Ezekiel was looking at God's glory, and he tried again to describe it. Listen as I read verse 28. Read the verse.

- ? What did it look like? What do we call a bow in the clouds on a rainy day? *A rainbow.*
- Yes. Rainbows are beautiful, aren't they?
- ? When Ezekiel saw the beautiful glory of the Lord, what did he do? *He fell on his face.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What an amazing vision! It was hard for Ezekiel to describe it all. God is holy, awesome, and powerful! All Ezekiel

could do was to fall on his face in worship, praise, and fear.

Isaiah's Vision

There are only two other places in the Bible where God let men see things like this. Let's look at the vision given to the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 6:1 & 5

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from Isaiah 6. Listen to the first verse and tell me what Isaiah saw. Read Isaiah 6:1.

- ? Who did Isaiah see sitting on the throne? *The Lord.*
- ? What was filling the temple? The train of his what? *The train of his robe.*

Show Illustration. The train is the long part of a robe that trails behind the person. Maybe you've seen a bride wearing a wedding dress that had a long, flowing train. Isaiah saw the long, magnificent train of the Lord's robe that filled up the temple!

When Isaiah looked up, he saw winged creatures called seraphim. Isaiah describes them as heavenly beings that flew around worshipping God in heaven. They cried out, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!" And when they said this, the doors shook, and the temple filled with smoke.

- ? Wow! This would have been an awesome sight! What do you think Isaiah did when he heard and saw all this? *Allow guesses.*

Listen to verse 5 to find out what he did. Read verse 5.

- ? What were Isaiah's first three words? *"Woe is me."*
- Refer to the Flip Chart. "Woe is me" is a way of saying you're very sorry for something. The seraphim reminded Isaiah that God is holy and perfect, without any sin, and that he is our all-powerful Creator. Isaiah was sorrowful because he understood how sinful he was when he saw how holy God is.

John's Vision

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look at one more spectacular vision in the book of Revelation—the very last book of the Bible. This vision was shown to a man named John, who was a close friend and disciple of Jesus.

Revelation 1:13–16

After Jesus died and rose again, he went back to heaven. Then many years later, he let John see him in this vision. Listen as I read how John described what he saw in Revelation 1. Read verses 13–16.

- ? John saw Jesus standing by some golden lampstands. What was Jesus wearing? (Verse 13) *A long robe with a golden sash around his chest.*
- ? What did John say his hair was like? (Verse 14) *White like wool or snow.*
- ? What were his eyes like? *Like a flame of fire.*

His feet were like bright, shining metal, called bronze. (Verse 15)

- ? What did his voice sound like, the roar of what? *Like the roar of many waters.*

That would be like the sound of a huge waterfall or a rushing river or the ocean waves crashing on the seashore; it's very loud and powerful.

- ? And what did his face look like? (Verse 16) *Like the sun shining in full strength.*

The sun is super bright, isn't it? So was Jesus' face.

Refer to the Flip Chart. John was so afraid at this awesome sight of Jesus that he fell down at Jesus' feet. Jesus told John that he didn't need to fear. He explained that he has always been and always will be God and that he is the only way we can be free from the punishment of hell. By trusting in Jesus and turning away from our sin, we can have eternal life in heaven with God.

Like Ezekiel and Isaiah, John fell down in humble worship and fear when he saw God's glory in heaven. These three men all loved and obeyed the Lord, but they were humbled when they saw how great God is.

- ? What does humble mean? *Allow answers.*

To be humble means that you are not proud or boastful and that you don't think you are better than anyone else. These visions we read about remind us that God is better and greater than anyone. God allowed Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John to see these things and to write about them in the Bible so that we can read and understand more about God's awesome power and glory. And just like these three men did, we can humbly worship God, too.

God's **AWESOME** Glory

Ezekiel



Isaiah

John

