

The Book of Ezekiel
“The Glory of God”
Week Two: February 9, 2020
Ezekiel 1:1-28
Answers

Recap from Last Session 1:

- **Theme: Restoring the Spiritual Heart of the Nation.**
 - o Key Verse: **“And the slain shall fall in the midst of You, and ye shall know that I am the LORD!” (Ezekiel 6:7).**
 - o Key point of this verse: **“Ye shall know that I am the LORD.”**
- We looked at the Timeline for Ezekiel’s Ministry and the Historical Background of the Two Kingdoms.
 - o The Northern Kingdom: Israel
 - o The Southern Kingdom: Judah
- **Ezekiel: The Man**
 - o Ezekiel’s name means **“God strengthens”** or **“God will strengthen.”**
- **The Captivity Prophets**
 - o Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were those we consider the Captivity Prophets.
 - o It was Ezekiel’s **Task** to tell the people that God **Would** destroy Jerusalem, **Not** Babylon, but that there would one day be a glorious **Restoration** of the people and rebuilding of the temple.

Session 2

Background/Introduction:

- Ezekiel’s Vision of the **Glory of the Lord** may very well be a key to all the visions of the entire Word of God.
 - o In the Book of Isaiah we have the Principles of the throne of God; in Jeremiah we have the Practices of that throne; but in Ezekiel we have the **Person** who is on the Throne.
 - o We see here a vision of the **Chariot of God** as He rides triumphantly and irresistibly through Time.
 - o We have been told that Ezekiel was 30 years’ old. The most difficult job for Ezekiel, as a prophet, was to change People’s **Minds**.

1. Beholding the Glory of the Lord (Vs. 1)

a. The Storm (Vss. 3-4)

- i. **Vs. 3:** The **Chebar** was the main canal that came off the **Euphrates** River, which watered the area.

- ii. The River Chebar: **“The Great River”** is also known as the **“Grand Canal.”**
- iii. The Phrase **“The word of the Lord came”** is used 50 times in this prophecy. In Scripture a storm is often an image of **Divine** judgment (**Prov. 1:27; Isa. 66:15**).

- 1. Since the immense **Whirlwind** cloud Ezekiel beheld was coming from the north, it indicated the **Invasion** of **Judah** by the Babylonian army and the destruction of the land, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple.

b. The Cherubim (Vss. 5-14)

- i. The creatures had the body of a human. It had straight feet like those of a calf, four faces and four wings, with human hands under the wings.
- ii. Of special interest are their four faces: **A Man, A Lion, An Ox, and An Eagle (Ezek. 1:10)**.
 - 1. Man is the **Highest** of God’s creatures, being made in the image of God.
 - 2. The Lion is the greatest of the **Untamed** beasts of the forest.
 - 3. The Ox is the **Strongest** of the domesticated beasts of the field.
 - 4. The Eagle is the **Greatest** of the birds and even a **Picture** of God (**Deut. 32:11-12**)
- iii. But there is also a connection here with the covenant God made with Noah after the flood.
 - 1. God promised not to destroy the world again with a flood, and He gave this promise to **Noah** (A Man) and his **Descendants**, the **Birds** (The Eagle), the **Livestock** (The Ox), and the **Wild** animals (The Lion).
- iv. The **Presence** of the **Cherubim** before the throne of God is assurance that God remembers His **Promise** and **Cares** for His creatures. But it also reminds us that **All** creation is used by the Lord to **Bless** or to **Chasten**.

c. The Wheels (Vss. 15-21)

- i. There were **Four** wheels (**Vs. 16**), each with an intersecting wheel and each associated with one of the **Cherubim**.
- ii. These living creatures are set to guard the throne of God, and in guarding the throne they do two things:
 - 1. They **Protect** the throne in the sense that they do not allow man in his sin to come into the presence of God.
 - 2. They **Indicate** the way that man is to come.

d. The Firmament (Vss. 22-25)

- i. The **Wheels** symbolize the **Omnipresence** of God, while the **Eyes** on their rims suggest the **Omniscience** of God, seeing and knowing everything.

1. Ezekiel was beholding a representation of the providence of God as he worked in His world.
- e. **The Throne (Vss. 26-28)**
- i. The wheels depicted God's omnipresence and omniscience, and the **Throne** speaks of God's **Omnipotent** authority.
 1. The throne was Azure Blue, with flashes of fire within it (**Holiness**) (**Rev. 15:2**) and a rainbow around it (**Covenant Grace**).
 2. Noah saw the rainbow **After** the storm (**Gen. 9:13-16**)
 3. John saw the rainbow **Before** the storm (**Rev. 4:3**)
 4. Ezekiel saw the rainbow **Over** the storm, and in **Control** of the storm.
 - ii. The prophet will **Watch** God's glory leave the temple and go over the **Mount of Olives**, and he will also see it **Return** to the kingdom temple.

No matter what message God gave him to preach, or what opposition arose from the people, Ezekiel would be **Encouraged** and strengthened because He had **Seen** the **Mighty** throne of God in the midst of the **Fiery** trial. He had seen the glory of God!

