

The Book of Ezekiel

7

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we start our study of the book of **Ezekiel**. The author, identified as "Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi" (**1:3**) and **1:1** indicates that he was thirty years old when his divine commission came. According to **Numbers 4:3**, a person of the priestly line entered the priesthood at the age of thirty. Ezekiel, however, was an exile in Babylon at the time of his thirtieth year, some seven years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon. But as an exile, there was no way Ezekiel could enter the priesthood, and thus God's call came in a totally new way – the call to be a prophet to his people.

As a priest-prophet, Ezekiel witnessed more of God's glory and prophesied more of future temple service than any other prophet. His commission starts with a vision of God's throne. Like Isaiah, who had witnessed the throne of God in **Isaiah 6:1-3**, Ezekiel also saw the throne of God in heaven (**1:26-28**), but with a difference. Isaiah saw the glory of God touch the Temple in the form of the a "train" of God's robe. Ezekiel saw the glory of God coming down to earth in the form of the four living creatures. The four living creatures are described as cherubim (see **chapter 10**) that constantly attend the throne of God (see **Revelation 4:6-8**). Yet here they are upon the earth! Even without the Temple, God's glory is still revealed to mankind!

This morning we will be reading **chapters 1-17**. These chapters are the launch of Ezekiel's prophetic ministry, and you will note that they begin with a command from God in **3:1**:

"...Son of man...eat this scroll; *then* go and speak to the house of Israel."

When Ezekiel first eats the scroll, it tastes "as sweet as honey in my mouth" (note **Revelation 10:8-11**). But before he prophesied, Ezekiel sits with the people for seven days in total identification with their situation. Out of this identification, he is given the words to prophesy.

Memory Verse

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment
that brought us peace was upon him, and by
his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Your Fishing Kit

This is the seventh verse in your fishing kit. **Isaiah 53:5** takes us back into Old Testament prophecy, and provides one of the clearest foretellings of the suffering of Christ. When Christ died, it was not just as a good man who was misunderstood. It was not even as a person who “rocked the boat” too much. Jesus was “pierced for our transgressions” and was “crushed for our iniquities.” But that’s not all. The punishment he endured actually produced something! It “brought us peace” with God (see **Romans 5:1**) and healing from our sicknesses (see **1 Peter 2:24**).

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Proverbs 14:12	John 1:12	Matthew 10:32-33
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	1 Corinthians 10:13
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	1 John 5:10
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	1 John 5:11
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 10:10	1 John 5:12
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 10:28	Romans 2:4-5
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	Romans 10:9	Acts 17:30
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	Romans 10:13	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	2 Corinthians 5:17	John 16:33
Isaiah 54:6	1 John 1:10	2 Corinthians 5:21	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.