

# Ezekiel

**Ezekiel means “God strengthens,” he was the son of Buzi and was deported to Babylon with King Jehoiachin in 597BC, [2 Kings 24:14-17].**

Five years later Ezekiel received a call to be a prophet of the Creator God, [Ezekiel 1:1-3], possibly at the age of thirty, and he lived at least another twenty-two years, [Ezekiel 29:17].

During the first six years that Ezekiel ministered in Babylon, Jeremiah was preaching to the Jews still in Judah and Daniel was serving in Nebuchadnezzar’s court.

**Why did the exiled Jews need a prophet among them in Babylon?**

- 1) **To help them understand why they had been taken captive.**
- 2) **To dispel the false hope that the captivity was going to be short.**
- 3) **To bring a new message of hope.**
- 4) **To give the people a new awareness of their dependency on the Creator God.**

**Why did the Creator God communicate through Ezekiel in visions?**

**The people in exile had lost their perspective of God’s purpose and presence.**

Ezekiel brought to these people a vision that showed God’s awesome glory and holiness.

**Also to warn the exiles of sin’s consequences before it was too late.**

**Nothing that Ezekiel had experienced had prepared him for such a display of God’s glorious presence, [Ezekiel 1:4-28].**

**The vision given to the apostle John in Revelation 4 parallels Ezekiel’s vision.**

**Ezekiel 2:3-7** [New King James] *“And He said to me: ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are a rebellious house, yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.’”*

**The first prophecies given by God through Ezekiel were badly received.**

Ezekiel experienced the same kind of shocking encounter with the Creator God as Isaiah reported 150 years earlier, [Isaiah 6:1-8].

**Ezekiel 3:12-15** [New King James] *“Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: ‘Blessed is the glory of the LORD from His place!’ I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise. So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me. Then I came to the captives at Tel*

*Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.”*

**Like Isaiah, Ezekiel was never the same after his personal encounter with the Creator God.**

**Ezekiel 3:16-17** [New King James] *“Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:’”*

Ezekiel was appointed to be the watchman for the House of Israel.

**To be a watchman is a major responsibility of every true Christian.**

**We are to be watched men and women in our generation.**

**Matthew 5:14-16** [New King James] *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

**This is not something we can take lightly when we consider what the Creator God told Ezekiel what being a watchman means in His eyes.**

**Ezekiel 3:18-19** [New King James] *“When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”*

**We need to pause and meditate on what the Creator God had just said to Ezekiel now he was a watchman.**

**Ezekiel 3:20-21** [New King James] *“Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”*

**Note the last five words, our salvation is at stake.**

An honoured position was given to Ezekiel by the elders of Judah, [**Ezekiel 8:1; Ezekiel 14:1; Ezekiel 20:1**]. This is possible because of his family’s rank in Judah. But still the majority did not take notice of what the Creator God was saying to them through Ezekiel, [**Ezekiel 33:30-33**].

**Ezekiel 24:1-2, 15-18** [New King James] *“Again, in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, write down the name of the day, this very day, the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem this very day.’” ... “Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips, and do not eat man’s bread of sorrow.’ So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died; and the next morning I did as I was commanded.”*

**Ezekiel’s wife died on the very day that the king of Babylon started his siege of Jerusalem, but Ezekiel was not to mourn her death, for the Creator God was going to use this sad event in his life as a visual warning to all Israel, [**Ezekiel 24:19-27**].**

The phrase “*then they will know that I am the Lord*” or a variation on this phrase occurs **65 times in the Book of Ezekiel.**

**The purpose of all God’s punishment was not to take revenge, but to impress on the people the truth that the Creator God is the only one true God.** As in Ezekiel’s day, people in every generation have worshipped false gods such as the god of this present world, Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19**]. Please download the articles on this website under the heading ‘*Religion*’ that expose Satan’s deceptive religions and churches.