

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH--SOTB--THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL--PART ONE

INTRODUCTION: Ezekiel was one of the Jewish exiles who settled on the banks of Chebar. He was carried away in Exile about BC 597. His prophetic call came in the fifth year of his captivity--Around BC 592. He had a house in the place of his exile where he lost his wife in the 9th year of his captivity by what appeared to be a sudden and unexpected stroke. (Eze 8 v 1) (Eze 24 v 18). His ministry was nearly a quarter of a century long (Eze 29 v 17). It appears that some of his prophecies coincided with the prophets Daniel; Jeremiah; and also Obadiah. Nothing is known about the time of his death or the circumstances surrounding his death. He appeared also to suffer intense persecution at times for his faith. (Eze 3 v 25)

EZEKIEL'S PROPHECIES: These take on an unusual form. In many instances he ACTS out the prophecies God gives him so that people are able to observe a visual representation of the word of God to them.

EZEKIEL'S NAME: Means "God will Strengthen"

SOME OF EZEKIEL'S KEY VISIONS:

- a) Visions of God's Glory.
- b) Visions Of Jewish Abominations.
- c) Visions Of Jewish Judgement.
- d) Visions of The Valley Of The Dry Bones.
- e) Visions Of The Man With The Measuring Line.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE AT THE START OF HIS BOOK:

Many Pagans and Unsaved people have tried to read into the vision that Ezekiel saw in Chapter one as an account of a visit to him from aliens or an alien spacecraft. This is somewhat understandable to the spiritually dead mind but to the born again person these things can be readily explained as we compare scripture with scripture.

SOME FUNDAMENTAL THOUGHTS ON CHAPTER ONE:

- 1) **Ezekiel had the Heavens opened for Him.** (Eze 1 v 1)
 - a) Heaven opened for Jesus. (Matt 3 v 16) (Luke 3 v 21)
 - b) Heaven to be opened for Nathanael. (John 1 v 51)
 - b) Heaven opened for Steven. (Acts 7 v 56)
 - c) Heaven opened for Peter. (Acts 10 v 11)
 - d) Heaven opened for John. (Rev 4 v 1) (Rev 19 v 11)

2) **Ezekiel saw visions of God.** (Eze 1 v 1) (Eze 8 v 3) (Eze 11 v 24)
(Eze 3 v 23) (Eze 43 v 3)

a) God spoke to Jacob through Visions. (Gen 28 v 12-15)

b) God spoke to Abraham through Visions. (Gen 15 v 1)

c) God spoke to Ananias through Visions. (Acts 9 v 10-12)

d) God spoke to Daniel through Visions. (Daniel 10 v 7) (Dan 8 v 1)

e) God spoke to the Prophets through Visions. (Numbers 12 v 6)

f) God spoke to Cornelius through Visions. (Acts 10 v 3-6)

g) God spoke to Isaiah through Visions. (Isa 6 v1) (2 Chron 32 v 32)

h) God spoke to Nahum through Visions. (Nahum 1 v 1)

i) God spoke to Paul through Visions. (Acts 18 v 9) (Acts 16 v 9)

Ezekiel had the word of God come to him. (Eze 1 v 3a) (Eze 6 v 1) (Eze 7 v 1)
(Eze 11 v 14)

(Gen 15 v 1) (2 Sam 7 v 4) (2 Sam 24 v 11) (1 Kings 6 v 11) (1 Kings 13 v 20)
(1 Kings 16 v 1) (1 Kings 17 v 2) (1 Kings 18 v 1) (2 Kings 20 v 4) (2 Chron 11 v 2)
(Jer 1 v 2) (Jer 1 v 4) (Jer 1 v 11) (Jer 1 v 13) (Hosea 1 v 1) (Joel 1 v 1) (Jonah 1 v 1)
(Jonah 3 v 1) (Hagg 2 v 20) (Zech 7 v 1)

Ezekiel had the hand of the Lord upon him. (Eze 1 v 3)
(Eze 3 v 14) (Eze 3 v 22) (Eze 8 v 1) (Eze 33 v 22) (Eze 37 v 1) (Eze 40 v 1)
(1 Kings 18 v 46) (2 Kings 3 v 15)

Ezekiel had the sight of a whirlwind coming out of the north. (Eze 1 v 4)
(Jer 23 v 19) (Jer 25 v 32)

****Note**** Often the NORTH is depicted as the direction from where judgement would come.
(Jer 1 v 13-14) (Jer 4 v 6) (Jer 6 v 1) (Jer 25 v 9)

Ezekiel had the sight of A Great Cloud. (Eze 1 v 4)

“A Cloud in the bible in this context is a symbol of DIVINE PRESENCE--DIVINE SPLENDOR-DIVINE GLORY and also sometimes Divine Power.

(Eze 10 v 3-4) (Ex 19 v 16) (Ex 19 v 18) (Ex 24 v 16) (Deut 4 v 11) (2 Chron 5 v 13-14)
(2 Chron 7 v 2-3) (Psa 18 v 12) (Psa 97 v 2) (Psa 104 v 3) (Isa 19 v 1) (Nahum 1 v 3)
(Heb 12 v 29)

Ezekiel had the knowledge that the Cloud had the colour of Amber. (Eze 1 v 4)

(Eze 1 v 27) (Eze 8 v 2)

“Amber points to the brightness of God’s presence--In other words the vision Ezekiel saw was a fiery golden colour”

Ezekiel Had the vision of the likeness of 4 living creatures. (Eze 1 v 5)

(Rev 4 v 6) (Rev 6 v 6)

“These were Cherubims” (Eze 10 v 9) (Eze 10 v 15) (Eze 10 v 16) (Eze 10 v 19-20)
(Eze 11 v 22)

“Remembering Cherubim guard the Holiness of God”

(Gen 3 v 24) (Eze 25 v 18-22) (Psa 80 v 1) (Psa 99 v 1) (Isa 37 v 16)

Ezekiel said that the appearance of the living creatures was that they had the likeness of man. (1 v 5) “Ie They appeared to have Human Form”

“It is interesting to note that at times in the scriptures a number of things appeared to possess the likeness of men:

(Judges 9 v 36) (Eze 1 v 10) (Eze 10 v 14) (Rev 4 v 7) (Rev 9 v 7) (Eze 1 v 26)
(Dan 7 v 4)

Ezekiel said the beings he saw had 4 faces and 4 wings. (Eze 1 v 6)

(Gen 33 v 10) (Num 6 v 25) (Psa 91 v 4)

There has always been lots of controversy as to whether angels genuinely have wings--The following verses answer that controversy

(Ex 25 v 20) (Ex 37 v 9) (1 Kings 6 v 27) (2 Chron 3 v 11-13) (1 Kings 8 v 6-7)
(Isa 6 v 2)

Often the four faces and 4 wings are said to represent both the omnipotence and omnipresence of God

(Rev 7 v 1) (Eze 45 v 19) (Deut 22 v 12) (Eze 46 v 22) (Acts 10 v 11)

“In other words God has all bases covered”

Ezekiel said that the Living Creatures had feet. (Eze 1 v 7)

- a) The feet were straight feet.
- b) The feet had sole's which were like a calf's foot.
- c) Their feet were sparkled and were coloured as burnished brass.
(Psalm 104 v 4) (Dan 10 v 6) (Rev 1 v 15)

The feet **here** represent movement--God is able to move anywhere he likes whenever he likes (Isa 52 v 7) (Nahum 1 v 15)

Ezekiel said that the Living Creatures had hands. (Eze 1 v 8)

(Eze 8 v 3) (Eze 10 v 7-8) (Eze 10 v 21) (Isa 6 v 6)
(1 Sam 15 v 11) (2 Chron 30 v 12)

Ezekiel said that the Living Creatures had 4 faces: (Ezk 1 v 10)

- a) The face of a Man. (Speaks of the humanity of Christ and that Christ became man to save man)
- b) The face of a Lion. (The Lion speaks of the Prevalence of God)
- c) The face of a Ox. (The Ox represents Strength)
- d) The face of an Eagle. (Speaks of the wisdom; swiftness; and the highness of God)

Ezekiel said the living Creatures appeared as burning coals. (Eze 1 v 13)

(Psalm 104 v 4)

Ezekiel said that he saw Wheels. (Eze 1 v 15-16)

"Wheels in scripture are often thought of as representing that God has done great things which are beyond finding out; they also teach that God has done wonders without number; and that his righteousness and judgements are great"

(Job 9 v 10) (Psalm 36 v 6) (Psalm 40 v 5) (Rom 11 v 33) (Eze 3 v 20)

Ezekiel saw rings FULL of many eyes: (Eze 1 v 18)

"The eyes are thought to represent the ALL SEEING ability of God"

(Pro 15 v 3) (Zechariah 4 v 10) (Rev 4 v 6) (Rev 4 v 8)

Ezekiel spoke about the spirit of the living Creatures being in the wheels. (Eze 1 v 20-21)

(Zechariah 6 v 1-8)

Ezekiel spoke about the fact that the living creatures could be HEARD: (Eze 1 v 23-24)

- a) Their wings sounded like waves crashing on the shore.
- b) Their wings sounded like the voice of Almighty God.
- c) Their wings sounded like the shouting of a mighty army.

Ezekiel spoke about the fact that when the living beings lowered their wings--A voice spoke and a figure appeared whose resemblance was like a man. (Eze 1 v 25-26)

Ezekiel described some of the characteristics of the figure that he saw. (Eze 1 v 27-28)

- a) The figure from the waist up looked like a gleaming Amber.
- b) The figure was flickering like a fire.
- c) The figure from his waist down looked like a burning flame shining with all glory and splendour.
- d) The figure was compassed about by what appeared to be a halo in the form of a rainbow.

“Ezekiel’s Conclusion---This is what the Glory of the Lord looked like to me” (Eze 1 v 28)

“Ezekiel’s Response----Was a response of Worship” (Eze 1 v 28)

MAJOR THEME ONE IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

- 1) The people will KNOW there has been a prophet amongst them. (Eze 2 v 5)
- 2) The people will KNOW when God has spoken. (Eze 5 v 13)
- 3) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord. (Eze 6 v 7)
(Eze 6 v 10) (Eze 6 v 13) (Eze 6 v 14) (Eze 7 v 4) (Eze 11 v 10) (Eze 11 v 12)
(Eze 12 v 16) (Eze 13 v 21) (Eze 13 v 23) (Eze 14 v 8) (Eze 15 v 7) (Eze 20 v 26)
(Eze 20 v 38) (Eze 20 v 44)
- 4) The people will KNOW when the Lord Smites them. (Eze 7 v 9)
- 5) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord and that he Judges them. (Eze 7 v 27)
- 6) The people are to KNOW that the Lord KNOWS everything that comes into their minds.
(Eze 11 v 5)
- 7) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when he scatters them. (Eze 12 v 15)
- 8) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when their cities and land are laid to waste.
(Eze 12 v 20)

- 9) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they see him dealing with false prophets.
(Eze 13 v 9)
- 10) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they begin to understand why God has done the things he has done. (Eze 14 v 23)
- 11) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when he establishes his covenant with them.
(Eze 16 v 62)
- 12) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they remember the Sabbaths.
(Eze 20 v 10)
- 13) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when he brings them into the land of Israel.
(Eze 20 v 42)
- 14) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they take their Inheritance.
(Eze 22 v 16)
- 15) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they experience God's Fury.
(Eze 22 v 22) (Eze 25 v 17) (Eze 25 v 11) (Eze 26 v 5) (Eze 28 v 22-23)
- 16) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they are judged for their Idolatry
(Eze 23 v 49)
- 17) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as they witness Ezekiel's prophecies.
(Eze 24 v 24)
- 18) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as the Lord uses Ezekiel for a sign.
(Eze 24 v 27)
- 19) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when God has executed Judgements on Israel's
enemies. (Eze 28 v 26).
- 20) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as he deals with Egypt. (Eze 29 v 9)
(Eze 30 v 8) (Eze 30 v 19) (Eze 30 v 26) (Eze 32 v 15)
- 21) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as Israel increases in strength. (Eze 29 v 21)

- 22) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord when they are safe in their land. (Eze 34 v 27)
- 23) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as God causes dead men to live. (Eze 37 v 6)
(Eze 37 v 13-14)
- 24) The people will KNOW that God is the Lord as God magnifies himself. (Eze 38 v 23)