

Ezekiel, Son of Man
Class 1
Reading: Ezekiel 1-3

Part I: Introduction to Ezekiel

Why study the book of Ezekiel? Let us say that there are four purposes to our study. First, it is to “*know that a prophet has been among them*” (Ezekiel 2:5). We need to understand that under the Old Law, God spoke through prophets to His people (indeed, to all people).

Hosea 12:10 I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.”

However, things have changed today. God no longer speaks through prophets, but through His Word, given to us by the authority of His son.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets

As well, we need to see how history repeats itself. We are told that time and time again there is a repetition of history in spiritual matters. We are told that the Bible claims that event of the Old Testament occurred and were recorded for our benefit (Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:11). There are several points to consider: first, that the events regarding false teachers in their days was the same as we will experience.

2 Peter 2:1a But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you

Second, the apostasy of Israel in their last days reflects the apostasy of our nation and our brethren. It speaks to a group of people who know what the truth is, but choose to ignore it.

Third, we need to know what Ezekiel does not say. The book of Ezekiel is one of several books in the Bible (other books include Revelation and Daniel) that are misused by many to promote false doctrines. Many who teach false doctrines on the end times or a restoration of the state of Israel refer to Ezekiel as their evidence. The Book of Mormon and The Watchtower both point to Ezekiel as their authority for existence. We need to understand what Ezekiel says in order to give an answer to those who mis-state its meaning.

Finally, we want to see the eternal purpose of the church (Ephesians 3:11) A great part of the book of Ezekiel is prophetic towards the church that Jesus built. Particularly, Ezekiel sees the church as the ultimate and final temple of God, something that we are told repeatedly in the New Testament (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Ephesians 2:21)

Part II: Chapters 1-3

Chapter 1: God tells us that prophets are spoken to by God through visions. It is a method of validating their conversation. Numbers 12:6-8 tells us that, except for Moses, all prophets are spoken to in this manner. We see this exact vision in Revelation 4, which tells us that John's vision there speaks to the same issues as Ezekiel.

Chapter 2: Ezekiel is called the Son of Man, a term used only identified with Jesus. It speaks to the nature of the experiences that Ezekiel will receive; "son of Man" is demeaning in its application (Job 25:6, Psalm 8:4, 144:3). Ezekiel's vision includes a scroll that he will eat in chapter three. We are

reminded of similar allusions by David (Psalm 119:103) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16); the Word of God described as edible and sweet, but bitter too. As well, the scroll seen by Zechariah (Zechariah 5:2) and by John (Revelation 5:1) having an authority based on their being the Word of God.

Chapter 3: Ezekiel's Commission is one which sounds very much like the one given to Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9) and repeated by Christ (Mark 4:12). He is to go to people who will not listen to him. This is because God will not judge them unless they have had the chance to reject Him. God describes Ezekiel as a watchman, something He elaborates on again in chapter 33. It falls on Ezekiel to carry this out; if he does not, then the blood of the people will be on him.