

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

Ezekiel

PART 1

THEN YOU WILL KNOW
THAT I AM THE LORD
(CHAPTERS 1–32)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

EZEKIEL

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(CHAPTERS 1–32)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E., ED.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 6, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1986

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

CARSON, D. A.

The New Bible Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994

KEIL, C. F., DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2002

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapters One through Three

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Ezekiel 1–3
“Ezekiel at a Glance”
“The Rulers and Prophets of Ezekiel”
“Israel and the Nations” map
Cross-references
Word Study

The Word of the LORD Came to Ezekiel

Have you wondered, how long will it be before the people spoken of in Ezekiel 38 come against Israel? Whether the prophecies in Ezekiel come to pass soon or not, as God tells us through Amos His prophet, “The Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Surely you want to know for yourself what is going to happen.

DAY ONE

Ezekiel opens in a most dramatic way. For Ezekiel and for us. One that will take some very close observation; however, we won’t try to do it in a day. You can relax and trust the Spirit of God to reveal His truths precept upon precept. Remember, when you open God’s book, it’s always good to talk to Him and ask Him by His Spirit to open the eyes of your understanding. He’s the author and His Son prayed that you would be sanctified—set apart, made holy—through His truth, His Word (John 17:14-17).

1. Observe Ezekiel 1. The Observation Worksheet is in the Appendix of this workbook.

As you read the text, give special attention to the indicators of time as this is strategic in the layout of the book. Mark the following, each in a distinctive color or way:

An asterisk [*] denotes words used frequently in the Bible that have a suggested marking on the back cover of your workbook.

- a. references to *Ezekiel*, including synonyms and pronouns, so that you can quickly find all the references when you look for them.
 - b. references to time. Some of us use a green circle.
 - c. geographical references. We usually double underline these in green. As you do this, make sure you mark references to *the expanse*.
 - d. *visions*
 - e. *the word of the LORD came*
 - f. *living beings*—You will encounter these again in Ezekiel. Because there are so many references to them in this chapter, you may want to give them a distinctive color. It will make the text easier to read.
 - g. *wheels*
 - h. *throne*
 - i. references to the figure with the appearance of a man, including pronouns, beginning with verse 26.
 - j. *the likeness of the glory of the LORD* or *the glory of the LORD*. *The glory of the LORD* is a key phrase in Ezekiel so choose a good coloring or marking for it. Some of us put a purple cloud around it and color it yellow.
 - k. *the spirit*
2. You will find it helpful to make a **Key Word Bookmark**. You can use the one on the back cover of your workbook. List the words above and mark them as you did on your Observation Worksheet. This will help you observe Ezekiel.
 3. Now summarize each paragraph below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet. A bold verse number denotes the beginning of a paragraph.
 - a. 1:1-3
 - b. 1:4-14
 - c. 1:15-21

d. 1:22-25

e. 1:26-28

4. Where was Ezekiel? Check the location on the map in the Appendix “Israel and the Nations.”
5. Reflect on what you have observed. Is there anything that grabbed your interest? Caused you to wonder? Stirred up questions? Write it down. Tomorrow we will go deeper.

DAY
TWO

1. Your assignment for today is to get a good understanding of Ezekiel’s vision. Read all of number 1 (“a” through “e”) before you begin. Tomorrow we’ll look at Ezekiel and the timing of this vision.
 - a. Looking at each marking for the living beings, list what the text tells you about them.

b. What do you learn about the wheels?

c. What do you learn about the throne?

d. What does the text tell you about the figure with the appearance of a man?

- e. What do you learn from marking the “likeness of the glory of the LORD” (1:28)?

2. Now, are you ready for this? Sketch—or at least diagram—as well as you can the living beings with the wheels and locate them in relationship to the expanse and the throne. It doesn’t have to be fancy—many of us cannot draw very well. However, we truly believe this will be beneficial to you personally—and helpful as you are going to encounter these living beings more than once! Do this on a separate piece of paper as you will want to refer to it later in the study.

You’re a good sport and we are proud of you. If you’ve done Revelation with us, then you know the value of what you just did, even if the sketches or drawings are rough. Many have told us how they moaned and groaned, but how they were glad they did it. It simply helps to have a visual of what you’ve read—the vision!

3. Now what do you think Ezekiel 1 is about? What’s the theme—main event? Record it under chapter 1 on the “Ezekiel at a Glance” chart that you will find in the Appendix.


Thank you, Beloved of God, for studying the Word with us. Truly our driving passion is to help you discover truth for yourself, go deeper with others, and disciple others. It’s a discipline that is worth the price in every way. You will never regret it.

DAY THREE

1. Now that you have an understanding of the components of Ezekiel’s vision in chapter 1, let’s see what else we can learn about the vision—such as the timing, the place—and the one to whom it was given. Look at your observations of Ezekiel 1 and record as many of 5 Ws and an H that the text answers—who, what, when, where, why, and how.

4. Although Ezekiel might not have served in Solomon’s temple, the book of Ezekiel closes with a description of another temple to come! What a privilege he had in telling what will happen in the temple of Messiah’s time. As you think about this, is there any possible lesson for us—any application as to how we might handle disappointments? Career changes?

DAY
FOUR

1. Observe Ezekiel 2:1–3:11. As you do, there are several words you need to add to your key word list:
 - a. *Spirit** (when it refers to God’s Spirit)
 - b. *rebellious, rebelled*. If you are at a loss as to how to mark this, why not a blue arrow going down? Blue for Israel!
 - c. *listen*. * For *not listen* put a slash through it.
 - d. *lamentations*
 - e. *woe*. You could mark it in red like this  and color it brown.
2. Having done your observations, what would you say the main event of chapter 2 is? Record it on the “Ezekiel at a Glance” chart.
3. Now summarize each paragraph below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.
 - a. 2:1-7
 - b. 2:8-10
 - c. 3:1-3

d. 3:4-11

4. What is the connection between chapters 2 and 3? Explain your answer.

5. Now, stop and reflect on Ezekiel’s commission.

a. Basically what is God telling Ezekiel? List the main points you observed.

b. Look up the meaning of Ezekiel’s name. How does this fit with the assurance God gives Ezekiel in 3:8-9 in light of the descriptions of the people he’s ministering to: stubborn and obstinate (Ezekiel 2:4, literally, “stiff-faced and hard-hearted”¹; Ezekiel 3:7, literally, “of a hard forehead and a stiff heart”²).

c. Now think—what if it were you? Aren’t we as followers of Jesus Christ to speak to people? Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. List what you are to do according to these verses.

d. How faithful are you to share God’s truth with others?

¹ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Ezek 2:4) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Ezek 3:7) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

DAY
FIVE

1. Finish your observations on Ezekiel 3. As you do,
 - a. mark and add to your bookmark
 - 1) *wicked(ness)*
 - 2) *sin,* iniquity*
 - 3) *die**
 - 4) *righteous**
 - b. you might want to add *Israel,* house of Israel* also.
 - c. you will find some key repeated words in this chapter you might want to mark, without adding them to your Key Word Bookmark.
 - d. make sure you mark references to time and geographical locations.
 - e. don't miss the contrasts and Ezekiel's responsibility.
2. Record the themes of the paragraphs for Ezekiel chapter 3:12-27 on your Observation Worksheet or below. Then record the theme of chapter 3 on the "Ezekiel at a Glance" chart.
 - a. 3:12-15
 - b. 3:16-21
 - c. 3:22-27
3. Summarize what you learned about Ezekiel's responsibilities as a watchman.

EZEKIEL 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth *day* of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.
- 2 (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile,
- 3 the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the LORD came upon him.)
- 4 As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.
- 5 Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.
- 6 Each of them had four faces and four wings.
- 7 Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze.
- 8 Under their wings on their four sides *were* human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them,
- 9 their wings touched one another; *their faces* did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward.
- 10 As for the form of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.
- 11 Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another *being*, and two covering their bodies.

- 12 And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went.
- 13 In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire.
- 14 And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.
- 15 Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the earth beside the living beings, for *each of* the four of them.
- 16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship *was* like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship *being* as if one wheel were within another.
- 17 Whenever they moved, they moved in any of their four directions without turning as they moved.
- 18 As for their rims they were lofty and awesome, and the rims of all four of them were full of eyes round about.
- 19 Whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them. And whenever the living beings rose from the earth, the wheels rose *also*.
- 20 Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction. And the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings *was* in the wheels.
- 21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still. And whenever those rose from the earth, the wheels rose close beside them; for the spirit of the living beings *was* in the wheels.
- 22 Now over the heads of the living beings *there was* something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of crystal, spread out over their heads.

- 23 Under the expanse their wings *were stretched out* straight, one toward the other; each one also had two wings covering its body on the one side and on the other.
- 24 I also heard the sound of their wings like the sound of abundant waters as they went, like the voice of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- 25 And there came a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- 26 Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, *was* a figure with the appearance of a man.
- 27 Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and *there was* a radiance around Him.
- 28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

EZEKIEL 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEN** He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet that I may speak with you!”
- 2 As He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet; and I heard *Him* speaking to me.
- 3 Then He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.
- 4 “I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’
- 5 “As for them, whether they listen or not—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.
- 6 “And you, son of man, neither fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house.
- 7 “But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.
- 8 “Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.”
- 9 Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll *was* in it.
- 10 When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.

EZEKIEL 3
Observation WorksheetChapter Theme _____

THEN He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”

2 So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll.

3 He said to me, “Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.” Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

4 Then He said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

5 “For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language, *but* to the house of Israel,

6 nor to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. But I have sent you to them who should listen to you;

7 yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate.

8 “Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

9 “Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house.”

10 Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I will speak to you and listen closely.

11 “Go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ”

- 12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a great rumbling sound behind me, “Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place.”
- 13 And I *heard* the sound of the wings of the living beings touching one another and the sound of the wheels beside them, even a great rumbling sound.
- 14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away; and I went embittered in the rage of my spirit, and the hand of the LORD was strong on me.
- 15 Then I came to the exiles who lived beside the river Chebar at Tel-abib, and I sat there seven days where they were living, causing consternation among them.
- 16 At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
17 “Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.
- 18 “When I say to the wicked, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.
- 19 “Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.
- 20 “Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.
- 21 “However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.”
- 22 The hand of the LORD was on me there, and He said to me, “Get up, go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you.”

- 23 So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face.
- 24 The Spirit then entered me and made me stand on my feet, and He spoke with me and said to me, “Go, shut yourself up in your house.
- 25 “As for you, son of man, they will put ropes on you and bind you with them so that you cannot go out among them.
- 26 “Moreover, I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you will be mute and cannot be a man who rebukes them, for they are a rebellious house.
- 27 “But when I speak to you, I will open your mouth and you will say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

EZEKIEL AT A GLANCE

Book
Theme:

Segment Divisions

		Dates	Chapter Themes
Author:			1
			2
Date:			3
			4
Purpose:			5
			6
			7
Key Words:			8
			9
			10
			11
			12
			13
			14
			15
			16

Segment Divisions

		Dates	Chapter Themes
			17
			18
			19
			20
			21
			22
			23
			24
			25
			26
			27
			28
			29
			30
			31
			32

