

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2005: OT review series: Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1—3:15**

**The book of Ezekiel**.....one of those OT books.....so easy to pass by....  
**Its fairly long**.....and uses terms and language.....complex

**Yet it's** a book that teaches us so much about God.....and how He responds to His people

**The setting .....is Babylon.....The year is 593BC**

And Ezekiel is a Jew living in captivity

**When Ezekiel was just 17**.....he had watched in dismay....as the army of Babylon  
King Nebuchadnezzar set up a puppet king.....and took several key Jews

**It was** the beginning of the punishment.....that God had said He would...if.....

**IT WAS A WARNING.....YET NOTHING CHANGED**

**Then 8years later**.....the Jews had rebelled against the Babylonian Empire

Back came Nebuchadnezzar.....**and this time** the result was a good deal worst

10,000 Jews.....including Ezekiel were marched off in chains to Babylon

**For the 25yr Ezekiel this was disastrous**

It seems he was a devout Jew.....and because he came from....

He was set to become a Priest.....at the age of 30

**But it was imposs to be a priest**.....away from Jerusalem....TEMPLE

**And so 5 years further on**.....we come to the time mentioned in Ezekiel chapter 1

**Ezekiel** has reached the age.....could become a Priest.....**Yet** he knew it was imposs

And then....as he sat by the river in captivity.....**He saw visions of God**

*I suggest you read thro chapter one.....sense of him struggling to describe.....*

*....the glory of the heavens.....in earthly terms*

then in v25—28.... he sees what he later describes....

*as the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord v25-29...*

What follows is his description...his call to be.....not God's Priest but...Prophet 2:1-5

**For the next 22 years Ezekiel was God's prophet in exile**

More than any other prophet he was called to act out the message

**We find 12 symbolic acts he had to perform**

Including laying on his side for 390 days

Shaving his head and beard

Digging a hole through a wall and crawling through it

Remaining tearless at his wife's funeral

**The seriousness of message.....**was confirmed.....by the outlandish things God....

**And it was indeed.....**a serious message.....those Jews in exile

**For they believed that their exile was a temporary glitch**

That God would soon restore Jerusalem.....Take them back.....Never allow Temple

**And through His Prophet.....**God said the opposite

**In the first 24 chapters.....**the message is....things will get much worst

**You won't be rescued.....**Indeed..... The whole population will be exiled

And Jerusalem with its Temple...totally destroyed.....**because of the evil...**

**THEN IN 24.....things change dramatically.....**

Ezekiel receives a very definite word from the Lord -> **24:1-2.....**

**Then** he is told that he must not openly mourn....wife....

As a sign that God would not mourn.....

**And so a change happens.....After 24.....Ezekiel's words of judgment**

Are mainly against the Nations surrounding Israel.....

**Until we read this in 33:21-22.....**

**The silence about Judah's future was now broken**

God's people had sinned grievously..... the punishment had fallen

**NOW** was the time for God to give them hope and a future

**Look with me at 34:11-12..... v16..... and then v23-24.....**  
**Jesus said in John 10:11.....Luke 19:9-10.....**

**From this point on...book of Ezekiel is full.....of future blessings God will give**  
And so many of them.....refer to those that Christ makes available to all....sheep

**Consider 34:26..... 36: 26-27.....**

**But for me....the most wonderful illustration .....of what God will do for a people**  
..or a life given over to Him.....**IS** contained in chapter 37

37:1-6.....

**For the people of Israel.....this miracle actually happened**  
After 70 years in exile.....**Cyrus of Persia conquered.....**and not only sent...but..

**But its greater fulfillment happened.....with the coming of Jesus Christ....**  
Once again there was judgment.....but this time God the Son bore it in our place  
On the cross of Calvary

**And then....**after His resurrection.....came forgiveness.....and life etrnal thro the H.S

**This is what following Jesus is all about.....**Knowing for sure that God has wiped  
He has made you a new person in Jesus  
**He has breathed His Spirit into you.....**  
And you are alive before God by the power of Jesus

**The miracle of Ezekiel 37 has occurred within you**  
So live out this new life.....**By** faith seek to do things for Jesus that  
Depend upon His strength to rise above

**And more than anything else.....**Be continual in thanksgiving....to Him the Shepherd  
...who has promised.....to never leave you.....or forsake you.

