

# **Ezekiel**

## **The Encounters of Ezekiel**

### **Chapters 1 & 2**

Ezekiel encounters God in very abrupt, almost brash ways. God comes up and smacks Ezekiel and interrupts his life in various ways over his entire ministry. In some ways this is symbolic and unique to Ezekiel as a prophet as he reveals a side of God that is very different than the first two major prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Ezekiel encounters the Holy, Almighty, Highly Enthroned God of Heaven and Earth who judges wickedness as the Judge over all. While we may encounter the judgements of God in Isaiah, we also find His goodness readily available. In Ezekiel, we are revealed a healthy dose of the severity of God.

**We are called to know the goodness and severity of God.**

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.” Romans 11:22

**As we continue in Ezekiel, we will begin to find glorious, precious mysterious of the Almighty God and His resurrecting ways.**

### **Ezekiel Chapters 1 & 2: NKJV**

**1** Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. **2** On the fifth day of the month, which was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s captivity, **3** the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.

**4** Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself;

- Whirlwinds were often associated with God in the Old Testament. The most noted examples are when Elijah the prophet was transported into heaven in a whirlwind and a chariot of fire (see 2 Kings 2:1,11) and when God spoke to Job out of the whirlwind in Job 37:9; 38:1; 40:6. Here Ezekiel see the angelic cherubim and God Himself coming toward earth, descending from the north, in a whirlwind of fire. – Perry Stone, Prophetic Hebraic Study Bible, pg. 1234
- See also Isaiah 21:1, Jeremiah 23:19

and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. **5** Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. **6** Each one

had four faces, and each one had four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. 8 The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. 9 Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.

- These four "living creatures" or cherubim were seen by the Apostle John in Revelation 4. We get an complete picture when we compare the two. Revelation 4:6-8
- Exekiel will encounter the cherubim and the throne of God again in chapter 10.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.

- These faces are similar to the emblems given to some of the tribes of Israel. Note: Numbers 2:10,3,18, and 25

11 Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. 12 And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. 14 And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 17 When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. 18 As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. 19 When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. 20 Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

- Ezekiel then described a wheel that was the spirit of the creatures; full of eyes and the color of beryle, a stone ranging in color from green to blue to yellow. Here it may have been more of an emerald green, as we know that John saw the color emerald in Revelation. ( see 4:3) The rings of the wheels were full of eyes. The wheels followed the creatures and yet the creatures followed the wheels. These cherubim are special

angels assigned to guard the glory and presence of God. Above the heads of the Cherubim was a "terrible crystal". The word for *terrible* here is *yare* (*Hebrew*) and is better understood as "awesomely" or "fearful". The noise from the moving of the cherubim's wings was like a waterfall, which is like the sound of the voice of the Almighty when He speaks, or similar to the sound of a large multitude. When the voice came from the crystal firmament above their heads, they dropped their wings to their sides and stood at attention. – Perry Stone, *Prophetic Hebraic Study Bible*, pg. 1235

22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. 23 And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. 24 When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings.

- The voice that thunders: Job 37:4, Psalm 29:3,4

25 A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings.

26 And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. 27 Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. 28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

- Compare to how God dwells in a storm and a cloud and a rainbow in Revelation 4:3, 10: 1 and Isaiah 6.

So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

### **Ezekiel Called to Be a Prophet**

**2** And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you." 2 Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. 3 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.

- The first theme in Ezekiel reveals incoming judgement to the children of Judah and Israel, but also gives the reasons why. Rebellion and pride and consistent turning from the Father's ways. 1 Samuel 8:7-8

4 For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' 5 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.

6 "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.

- Ezekiel receives the same exhortation from God Jeremiah receives as their audience and message from heaven was not going to be welcomed by the hearers. But only for those that had an ear to hear. Jeremiah 1:8

7 You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

9 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

- Taking scroll, seeing a scroll, and eating it was a symbol of end-time prophecies and prophetic words from the Lord. His is the Word and His written words are sure and true and will accomplish what He has purposed. Jeremiah 15:16, Revelation 10:8-11, Zechariah 5:1-2

10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe.