

Week 1 Study Guide: Ezekiel's Call & the Glory That Moves

Primary Text: Ezekiel 1–3 (KJV)

Historical Background

Ezekiel begins his ministry in 593 BC among the exiles in Babylon. Unlike Jeremiah, who remained in Jerusalem, Ezekiel is a priest-prophet whose call occurs outside the Temple. This setting is critical: God reveals His glory away from Zion, demonstrating that His presence is not confined to sacred buildings. The exile is not evidence of God's absence, but of His sovereign mobility.

Theological Exposition

Ezekiel 1 presents one of the most complex visions in Scripture. The throne-chariot imagery (often called the Merkabah) communicates that God is enthroned above creation yet active within it. The living creatures, wheels within wheels, and omnidirectional movement symbolize divine omnipresence and omniscience. God is not reacting to exile—He is governing it.

In chapters 2–3, Ezekiel is commissioned as a watchman. His authority flows not from acceptance, but from obedience. The prophet must speak whether the people listen or refuse. The eating of the scroll signifies internalization of God's word before proclamation—an enduring principle for ministry formation.

Key Verses for the Week (KJV)

- 1 Ezekiel 1:1
- 2 Ezekiel 1:4
- 3 Ezekiel 1:10
- 4 Ezekiel 1:15
- 5 Ezekiel 1:18
- 6 Ezekiel 1:22
- 7 Ezekiel 1:26
- 8 Ezekiel 1:28
- 9 Ezekiel 2:1
- 10 Ezekiel 2:3
- 11 Ezekiel 2:7
- 12 Ezekiel 2:9–10
- 13 Ezekiel 3:1
- 14 Ezekiel 3:7
- 15 Ezekiel 3:17

Memory Verse

Ezekiel 3:17 (KJV): "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel..."

New Testament Cross-Text Mapping

• Revelation 1:12–16 – John's vision of Christ parallels Ezekiel's throne imagery, reinforcing continuity in divine self-revelation. • Matthew 28:18–20 – The authority Ezekiel receives anticipates Christ's universal authority. • Acts 7:55–56 – Stephen's vision confirms that God's glory is not Temple-bound. • John 1:14 – God's glory dwelling among humanity finds fulfillment in Christ. • Hebrews 1:3 – Christ as the radiance of God's glory reflects Ezekiel's vision theology.

Contemporary & Spiritual Reflection

Ezekiel speaks powerfully to modern believers navigating displacement—cultural, moral, or spiritual. The moving glory of God challenges the church to recognize divine activity beyond familiar structures. Leadership today, as then, requires fidelity to God's word over cultural approval.

Discussion Questions

- 1 Why is it theologically significant that Ezekiel's call occurs in exile?
- 2 What does the mobility of God's glory teach about divine sovereignty?
- 3 How does the watchman role shape our understanding of spiritual leadership today?
- 4 In what ways does Ezekiel's vision prepare us to understand New Testament revelation?