

**A STRANGE PROPHET**  
**EZEKIEL 1:1-3 / 7-29-18 / PM**

**I. EZEKIEL'S LIFE.**

A. Ezekiel's Personal Life.

1. Little is known about his personal life.
2. His name means "**Strengthened by God**". This describes in a single word the purpose of his ministry to the exiles he lived among in Babylon.
3. He was already a young priest, but five years after being exiled he was called to also be God's prophet—1:1-3.
4. He was married but his wife died the same year Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. There is no mention of any children.
5. He lived a simple life in his own home—8:1.
6. Unlike the prophets who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction, Ezekiel was popular among his people in Babylon—33:30-33.
7. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel.
8. There is no mention of when or how he died.

B. Ezekiel's Messages.

1. His ministry is divided chronologically into two time periods.
  - a. The first time period covered the year of his prophetic call in 593 B.C. to the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
  - b. The second time period covered the years between 586 B.C. and 571 B.C. the year of his last recorded vision from God—29:17.
2. His book easily falls into four divisions or sections.
  - a. First, judgment of Judah—1-24.
  - b. Second, judgment on seven foreign nations—25-32.
  - c. Third, encouragement after Jerusalem's fall—33-39.
  - d. Fourth, visions of a new Temple and restored Israel—40-48.

3. Ezekiel repeated certain phrases throughout his book.
  - a. **“They (you) will know that I am the Lord”**—60 times.
  - b. **“I the Lord have spoken and I will do it”**—40.
  - c. **“The Word of the Lord came to me”**—40.
  - d. **“As I live says the Lord”**—15.
4. Several of Ezekiel’s visions are repeated in Revelations.
  - a. Four living creatures—Ezekiel 1 and Rev. 4.
  - b. Cherubim—Ezekiel 1 and Rev.4.
  - c. Gog and Magog—Ezekiel 38 and Rev. 20.
  - d. Eating a scroll—Ezekiel 3 and Rev. 10
  - e. River of Living Water—Ezekiel 47 and Rev. 22
  - f. New Jerusalem—Ezekiel 40-48 and Rev. 22

## II. EZEKIEL’S LESSONS.

1. Every person is responsible for their own actions and sins—Ezekiel 18:20.
2. God sometimes allows us to experience pain and sorrow—24:15-18.
3. God speaks in several different ways, one of which is His written word—24:15.
4. God judgment is real and certain unless there is genuine repentance—24:14.
5. Better days are coming for all of us—37:11-14.