

Bible Biographies

Sunday Night Auditorium Class

Ezekiel

Ezekiel: Ezekiel 1-3; 24:15-18; 33:30-33

Like Amos, who was “not a prophet nor the son of a prophet but a tender of sycamore fruit and a herdsman,” Ezekiel did not set out to be a prophet. He had trained his whole life to be a priest, and the roles are very different. A priest did most of his work privately, or in conjunction with other priests. He was a go-between for the people, giving them access to God. But a prophet had a much different function. He was a preacher, called on to reprove, rebuke and exhort, in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). For most of the prophets, it was usually “out of season,” meaning the people didn’t really want to hear the message. In Ezekiel’s case, he was not only called upon to preach the message, but to *portray* it as well. We learn from him that faith means doing what God says, even when it seems illogical, unreasonable or impossibly difficult.

Questions

1. What’s the point of the remarkable vision Ezekiel sees at the outset of his ministry? [Chapter 1]
2. Describe Ezekiel’s call: why was he being sent to Israel? Describe the attitude he was going to confront.
3. Why was he told to eat the scroll? What did it taste like? What’s the significance?
4. Ezekiel’s preaching was accompanied by various actions God told him to perform as object lessons to make the message plain (see 4:1-3; 4-8; 9-17; 5:1-4; 6:1-3). In chapter 24, the object lesson becomes very personal and heart-wrenching. Describe it. Why did God use object lessons? What does it say about how God “treats” His servants, sometimes?
5. In chapter 33, God describes the people as they listen to Ezekiel. How does Ezekiel’s preaching affects them? What’s the problem? What does God promise? How did he bring it about in Ezekiel’s lifetime? Later?