



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 37. Ezekiel, pt. 1

- **Introduction**

- Author: Ezekiel the prophet and priest taken as part of the second wave of captivity in Babylon in 597 BC who was most likely 30 when he began ministry
- Date: Covers ~593-571 BC
- Context:
 - Ezekiel and his fellow captives lived fairly comfortably in Babylon, which was in part due to how well-respected Daniel was by then (cf. Ez. 14:14, 20; 28:3).
 - Jeremiah's ministry overlapped a great deal with Ezekiel, so similar themes are present.
 - Ezekiel prophesied from Babylon about the coming destruction of Jerusalem to counter the false prophets who claimed everything would be restored soon, but once it happened, he prophesied about Israel's enemies being punished and her eventual restoration.

- Ezekiel is known for its powerful imagery in both his visions and actions, but the temptation is to get distracted by it and miss the point behind it.

- Main themes:

- God's _____ and _____
- God's continuing plan for _____

- **Ezekiel's Call (1–3)**

- The book begins with an overwhelming manifestation of God's _____.
- There are many descriptions and observations to be made about cherubim and their function.
- Ezekiel is told from the beginning that his job is to preach a negative message to a stubborn people.
- He isn't there to change people's behavior, but rather to pronounce judgments so when they came to pass in a few years, the people would know he spoke for God, change their ways, and listen to the messages about the future to come.

- He is made a _____ to the people (cf. ch33).
 - He is to give warning so they are without excuse, so if he fails to do his task, there severe consequences.
- He is made bound and mute so that he cannot fellowship or utter any other messages.
 - His task is so weighty and the need so urgent that all other priorities, including rebuke, are secondary to the messages God has for the people.

- **God's Presence Departing Jerusalem (4–11)**

- Ezekiel is given various signs to act out to display the coming judgment on Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem's idolatry is highlighted and condemned to show that it was no longer a place fit for God to _____.
- This horrible condition is brought to a climax when Ezekiel is 'yanked' in a vision to Jerusalem to witness firsthand all the abominations, leading to the same manifestation of God's presence arriving to remove His glory from the Temple as a final sign that Jerusalem's time had run out.

- After a final denunciation of the evil rulers who had led the people astray into such wickedness and judgment, Ezekiel finishes this vision by receiving a promise of restoration and new hearts (cf. ch36) so that judgment is not the final word, even as God's presence is leaving the city for the time being.

Discussion:

1. Why is it important for us to try to describe and indescribable God?
2. If God is omnipresent, why is the location of His presence so important?

FOR REFLECTION: How are you a 'watchman' to people in your life today? Where and to whom is God calling you to share His warnings and truth?

Blanks: holiness, wrath, Israel, presence, watchman, dwell