Bible Story: Ezekiel

Johnny Ramsey · Series: **Bible Story**

INTRODUCTION

- One of the most dynamic sections of world literature is the Old Testament book called Ezekiel.
- Sadly, many members of the church have never read or studied its pages, and we have thus robbed ourselves of valuable treasures.
- The prophet's message builds conviction and dedication, two ingredients we could certainly use today.

1 The Same Background of Bondage and Persecution

Ezekiel 2:1

- Both books have the same background of bondage and persecution meted out to God's elect.
- Both John and Ezekiel were told to take a little book and eat it up. This refers to the word of God revealed unto them and given unto their solemn trust.
- The contents of Ezekiel can be easily assigned to three divisions of thought.
- Chapters 1 through 23, the fall of Jerusalem as a consequence of sin. Chapters 25 to 31, God's judgment upon the nations. Chapters 33 to 48, the restoration of God's cause.

2 Idols in Their Hearts

Ezekiel 8:17; Ezekiel 14:3; Ezekiel 33:31

- Although Jehovah had no pleasure in the death of the wicked, he also had no patience with those who considered the abominations of iniquity a light thing.
- Because the fickle people of God thought Jehovah could not see their evil deeds, they had idols in their hearts, that led only to captivity and ruin.
- And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them.
- Ezekiel has given his charge from heaven as the watchman for the souls of Israel. If he failed to give them warning concerning the wrath of God, their blood would be required at his hand.

3 They Shall Know That I Am the Lord

Ezekiel 19:5; Galatians 6:7

- The most frequent phrase in the whole book of Ezekiel is God's vibrant reminder, they shall know that I am the Lord.
- Ezekiel stressed the glory and holiness of the Creator, the sin of Judah that outraged heaven, and the deliverance from captivity because of Jehovah's Holy Name's sake.
- The intervening years would teach the Jews how painful can be the sad dividends of indifference and immorality, for God is not mocked.

4 The Spiritual Adultery of God's Bride

Ezekiel 16

- Ezekiel chapter 16 is the most graphic unveiling of spiritual adultery in the entire Bible.
- God tells his people that lewd women at least get paid for their immorality, but his bride was paying the heathen to commit sacrilege with her.
- They had sacrificed their offspring to the devil, because their sin was so great their children would reap the consequences of it for years to come.
- God's unfaithful bride would be haunted by our infidelity and saddened by its impact upon following generations.

5 The Soul That Sinneth Shall Surely Die

Ezekiel 18:20

- Ezekiel 18:20 clarifies the point powerfully. The soul that sinneth it shall surely die.
- We are born spotless and sinless and become accountable before our Maker only when iniquity is found in our hearts.
- We may bear the consequences of others' faults, but never the guilt of someone else's mistakes.

6 The Valley of Dry Bones and Restoration

Revelation 20; Ephesians 2:6

- The great prophet sets forth a scathing denunciation of shepherds of the flock, evidently the weak kings of Judah, who were slothful, weak, and unspiritual.
- The prophet in a vision sees a valley full of very dry bones. He sadly proclaims, our bones are dried and our hope is lost.
- Jehovah is telling Ezekiel that Judah was dead and is alive again in the classic prediction of the restoration of the Jews.
- Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name.
- Ezekiel, the prophet of doom and punishment, had now become the herald of grace and glory.

THE CHALLENGE

Praise God for men like the prophets. We need a double portion of their spirit today.

MY NOTES