Ezekiel Lesson 1

Robert Harkrider

INTRODUCTION

- It's so very important to know how Ezekiel fits into the history of the times, to understand really why so much of the first 24 chapters particularly are talking about how God is really so unhappy with the people.
- The very name Ezekiel, as we put in the workbook, means God will strengthen or God strengthens.
- He gave them opportunity to repent and always does give people opportunity to turn to him and to repent.

1 How Ezekiel Fits Into the History of the Times

Hebrews 11; Jeremiah 24

- Manasseh did things so atrocious that God said, really, it's because of Manasseh that he would indeed take God's people into captivity.
- Who was competing with Jeremiah? False prophets. There were many other prophets. And many other prophets were saying, peace. Pay no attention to Jeremiah.
- Ezekiel was 25 years old when he was taken captive. He did not begin prophesying at that point in his time.
- When these did come back to Jerusalem, never again did God's people involve themselves in idolatry, as they had earlier in their history.

2 Ezekiel, Both Priest and Prophet

- I believe up to the very last, had there been a sincere repentance, God could and would have spared his people.
- Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, was both priest and prophet.
- How many times does he say the word of the Lord came unto me? 63.

3 The Living Creatures and the Wheel Within a Wheel

- Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north. A great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself.
- Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.
- This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face.
- We usually call this what kind of literature? Apocalyptic. That is the signs and the symbols that represent something else.

4 A Picture of God's Awesome Throne

- I think we must recognize that it is a picture of God's awesome throne.
- The main point seems to be the omnipresence of God. The wheels moved at the dictate of God.
- The rainbow reminds us that the God of all power and majesty is also the God of hope and grace.

- The common theme is that God is working in the world.

5 The Living Creatures Were Cherubim

Ezekiel 10:20; Exodus 25; 2 Kings 19:15

- This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the river Hevar, and I knew they were cherubim.
- Their wings overshadowed either end of the Ark of the Covenant, overshadowing the mercy seat where God said, I'll meet you there.
- In 2 Kings 19 and verse 15, it says, the Lord dwells between the cherubims.
- Here are the cherubim represented in every facet you might think of, with strength, with intelligence, with a willingness and readiness to serve, and with swiftness at doing it.

6 Compare the Living Creatures of Revelation 4

Revelation 4:6–11

- The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature, like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.
- You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.
- Whereas Ezekiel's had with each of the living creatures had all four faces.
- Ezekiel had four wings, Revelations had six.

MY NOTES