

# EZEKIEL

(“God will strengthen”)

## He Was an Exile—So Are We

Ezekiel was deported to Babylon with the second group of exiles, in 597 B.C.

*In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God (1:1, ESV).*

Ezekiel was commanded by God to play out the part of an exile. A sign which was representative of the southern kingdom.

*As for you, son of man, prepare for yourself an exile's baggage, and go into exile by day in their sight. You shall go like an exile from your place to another place in their sight (12:3, ESV).*

The Old Testaments saints are acknowledged as exiles of their day. *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth ( Heb.11:13, ESV).*

Peter, the apostle of Jesus Christ, in his first epistle addresses the New Testament church in various parts of Asia Minor as pilgrims, or exiles.

*To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you (1 Peter 1:1-2 , ESV).*

## He Was a Priest—So Are We

*On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin) The word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there (1:2-3,ESV).*

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9, ESV).*

*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Rev.1:5b-6, ESV).*

### **He Was an Ambassador—So Are We**

*Ezekiel was commissioned of God and told, “Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears. And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear, or whether they refuse” (3:10).*

All New Testament believers are mandated ambassadors. *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20).*

### **He Was Watchman—So Are We**

God called Ezekiel a watchman to the house of Israel to warn them of the coming judgment (3:15-21). However, the people would refuse to listen to Yahweh (3:7), or Ezekiel, His messenger (2:5; 3:7; 11). They would instead “prick” and “sting” Ezekiel like scorpions (2:6, Ralph Alexander).

New Testament elders are to be heeded as watchmen for the Lord. *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you (Heb. 13:17).*

### **He Was a Sign—So Are We**

*“Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am the Lord GOD.”(24:24, ESV).*

*“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ “(2 Cor.2-3b). The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a readable sign that directs lost people to Calvary, so that they may come to know the Lord God.*