

# EZEKIEL

HOPELESSNESS TO HOPE

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# Ezekiel's Call

What do you think of when you hear the name Babylon?

Have you ever felt like you have been “called” to something? Why did you feel that way? What was that “call” like?

## Read Ezekiel 1:1 to 2:8

Who did Ezekiel's call come from and in what form?

In this vision of God what do we learn about the relationship between God and his creation (vv. 4-21)?

What do verses 4-21 suggest about the character of God?

Why would no form but the human form be appropriate to represent God visually?

Who is the Son of man? Where do we usually see the phrase son of man? (Dan 7:13-14, Mark 8:31)

Why is the phrase son of man used in this way in Ezekiel and how is it different to other uses in the bible?

### **Read Ezekiel 2:9-3:15**

What indications are there in the passage that Ezekiel heard God's call not only as an obligation but also as an empowering and motivating reality (2:2; 3:12-15)?

Why do you think responds initially the way he does in 3:15?

Ezekiel isn't given an option about sharing God's message, what can we learn from this even when we are sure that someone is not interested in hearing about the gospel?

Do you think it would be easier or harder to share your faith with someone you know or a complete stranger?

What calling have we received? (Eph 4:1-7) (Matt 28:16-20)

How can we better meet that calling in our daily lives? How has God equipped us? How can we be like the description in Ezekiel 3:8-9?

Has God appeared to you when have felt like you were in “exile”? How did you find that an encouragement?

# Oracle of Judgement

Have you ever visited a ghost town? What was it like? How did it feel?

How many times have you had to move house? It is ranked as the same stress level as getting a divorce or losing your job, what do you think?

Have you ever been deceived by someone who was so convincing you thought they must be telling the truth? How did you find out they were not telling the truth in the end?

## Read Ezekiel 12

Why did God give Ezekiel these instructions?

Why was it better to get Ezekiel to demonstrate these actions rather than just tell the people?

Why were the Jews being so rebellious?

What does the saying in verse 22 mean?

### **Read Ezekiel 13**

Why are false divinations a problem? Why does God have this message particularly to false prophets?

Are false prophets only a problem in OT times? (2 Peter 2:1-3)

We hear of modern spiritualism as the “New Age” religion, how does this passage challenge that idea? Do you think that Christians can still follow the “New Age” religions?

### **Read Ezekiel 14**

Why do you think the language of v3 is to set up an idol in their hearts rather than referring to the physical idols?

God’s anger seems to be unquenchable, is it a foregone conclusion that judgement will occur? V6 (Jonah 3:6-10)

V13 talks of the sin of a country, how can a country sin? Why is judgement brought against a whole country?

What do we need to do to ensure we are not setting up false idols in our hearts?

What false divinations and prophecies do we need to guard against to ensure we are not led astray?

How can we influence the way in which our country is seen as a part of God's kingdom?



# Personal Accountability

How was your relationship different with your father or mother when you were a child compared to when you were an adult?

Have you ever been blamed for something someone else did? Has someone else taken the punishment for something you did?

## Read Ezekiel 18

What does the quote from Jeremiah 31:29 mean?

How does the message of this chapter compare with that of Ch 14?

What are the different descriptions of how God relates to people in this passage? (vv. 4, 20, 22, 24, 26, 30)

Where does accountability sit for each person's action? How does this compare with the concept of predestination, or fate?

How does this compare with John 9:1-3?  
What does righteousness or unrighteousness look like?

How do you respond to someone who says that they “are a good person” and that if God is loving he would save them in light of v24?

How do you respond to people who say that God is not fair and is letting evil happen in the world?

Vv31-32 seems to almost be the gospel message, how does this image fit with your idea of God? John 3:16

How does this message give you confidence in your faith?

# Oracles Against the Nations

Which news stories leave you struggling to discern God's divine purpose in the affairs of the nations?

## Read Ezekiel 26: 1-6

How did Tyre respond to the downfall of Jerusalem? (26:2)

What were God's reasons for turning against Tyre?

How do you think the exiles in Babylon would have reacted to the news that their pagan neighbours did not escape the wrath of God?

## Read Ezekiel 27

What do the people who live in Tyre think of their town? (27:3)

What do the other nations think of Tyre? (27:33)

How do the other nations react when they see the destruction of Tyre? (27:32-36)

### **Read Ezekiel 28: 1-10**

What does the king of Tyre's pride lead him to say? (28:2)

Why does the king of Tyre think that his wealth is proof of his wisdom?

### **Read Ezekiel 28: 12-19**

What does God's request for Ezekiel to take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre show us about his attitude toward this nation?

### **Read Ezekiel 28: 24-26**

What was God's purpose in executing judgement on Israel's neighbours?

What time is being spoken of in verses 25-26? (see Jer 23:5-6)

Are you ever tempted to boast in your own achievements or acquisitions? What lesson can be learnt from the king of Tyre?

# Shepherds and Sheep

Can you think of a church leader or Christian mentor who truly cared for you and encouraged you in your faith. What were they like?

## Read Ezekiel 34: 1-10

Who were the shepherds of Israel?

Why was God not pleased with the shepherds of Israel?

Who does the flock belong to?

## Read Ezekiel 34: 11-16

Does God leave the flock without a shepherd? Who takes over?

What are some good leadership qualities as described in this passage?

## **Read Ezekiel 34: 17-24**

Are the shepherds the only ones being judged for the way they treat the flock?

Why are both the shepherds and the sheep judged more by their care of the weak than of the strong and healthy?

The passage describes sheep being left with only a trampled pasture and muddied water to drink. What are some ways that you see people “trampling pastures” and “muddying water” today?

Verse 24 says “I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them.” Who is this prince shepherd and why is he referred to as his servant David?

## **Read Ezekiel 34: 25-31**

What is this covenant of peace that God speaks of in verse 25? (see Romans 5: 1 also)

Who is God's flock in the new covenant? Does it only include Israelites?

# Glory Returns to the Temple

Have you ever spoken to a non-Christian about the idea of heaven? What did they think it would be like?

Have you ever wished you could have a first-hand encounter with God? What emotions do you think you would feel?

Do you have a favourite line in the Lord's Prayer? What is it and why?

## Read Ezekiel 40:1-4 and 43:1-12

What benefit is there in describing the detail of when this occurred?

What is the instruction given to Ezekiel? (40:4)

What do you think the reaction would have been as Ezekiel described his vision to the Israelites at the time?

What do you find interesting about Ezekiel's statement about God in 43:3? Why do you think Ezekiel responded the way he did?



Here we have the spirit referred to specifically, what is the significance of this?

## **Read Revelation 21**

What are similarities between what Ezekiel describes and Revelation?

What are differences between these two visions? How does our understanding of Christ assist us in reconciling this?

Why did God give this vision to Ezekiel? (v10-12)

When we say “Let your Kingdom come?” as Jesus taught us to pray, why don’t we think of it in terms like these visions?

What is it that stops us from drawing near to God’s Holiness now? What is it that enables us to draw near in confidence? (Hebrews 10: 19-25)

What have you found helpful or challenging in studying Ezekiel?







# **TRINITY MOUNT BARKER**

A TRINITY NETWORK CHURCH

Office: 9 Hampden Rd  
Mount Barker  
South Australia 5251  
08 8398 2827

[info@trinitymountbarker.org.au](mailto:info@trinitymountbarker.org.au)  
[facebook.com/TrinityMountBarker](https://facebook.com/TrinityMountBarker)  
[www.trinitymountbarker.org.au](http://www.trinitymountbarker.org.au)