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**Life In Christ – The Call of Ezekiel**

**Introduction:**

- Ezekiel was a priest and a prophet during the time of the 70 years in captivity of Babylon. Some describe this time as the darkest time in Judah's history. Ezekiel uses prophecies, parables, signs, and symbols to dramatize God's message to His exiled people. Though they are like dry bones in the sun (Chap. 37), God will reassemble them and breathe life into the nation once again. Present judgement and suffering will be followed by future glory so that, *you shall know that I am God*" (6:7). The Hebrew name for Ezekiel is **God Strengthens. (3:8-9)**
- **We always need to be reminded, no matter how bad things get, no matter what people say (mocking, criticizing, persecuting, direct assault against God), God in on His throne.**
- **What can we learn from Ezekiel to "Stay Strong."**
- The Bible has a lot to say about our attention and attitude to be strong and to stay strong, because God strengthens us: (Deuteronomy 31:6; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 1:7; Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Chronicles 15:7; Joshua 1:6-7)

**1. We See Ezekiel as an Exile (1:1)**

- How does Ezekiel's situation compare to ours?
- What are the pros and cons of being an exile?
- Ezekiel said that, *"the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God!"*
- **Read Matthew 5:8, how does this verse prepare us to "see" God?**
- What do we see in our "exile" that we can share with the people around us?

**2. We See Ezekiel as an Ambassador.**

- Having seen God, he is now prepared to be a messenger for God.
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What is our message to people around us?**

**A. He is Called (2:1)**

- God speaks to us before He sends us to speak for Him.

**B. He is Helped (2:2)**

- The Spirit **entered!**
- Ezekiel **heard** God speak to him. (Felt the pull from the Holy Spirit).
- How do we "hear" from God today, how are we helped by God?

**C. He is Commissioned (2:3-4)**

- Don't get your cart before the horse. When God calls, He will send us where He wants us to go. We do not tell God where we will go and expect God to bless it.

**D. He is Filled (3:1-3)**

- How does this passage prepare us to be ambassadors?

**E. He is Encouraged (2:6-7)**

- **Think about all of the ways we are encouraged from the following verses.**
- John 16:33; Romans 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 10:24-25. 1 Corinthians 15:58

**F. He is Led and Empowered (3:12-14)**

- Fed by the **word** of God, and led by the **Spirit** of God.

**III. We See Him as a Watchman (3:17).**

- To be a **watchman** for God, we must have an eye-opening, soul transforming vision of God.
- **What does it mean to be a watchman for God?**

**A. A Work of Warning (3:18-19).**

**B. A Work of Great Responsibility (3:20).**

**IV. We See Him as a Sign (12:1-7).**

- What does the phrase, “in their sight” mean in the life of Ezekiel and in our lives?
- How do our actions, attitudes, affections, and attentions promote the life and light of God?
- Ezekiel along with many of the prophets did not just, “tell” the people what God had said, they lived it. God’s concern for His people manifested itself in the lives of the prophets.

**A. Ezekiel’s Heart was Broken (21:6).**

**B. Paul Wept for the People (Philippians 3:18).**

**C. We are Called to Mourn (Matthew 5:4).**

- People do not care how much we know until they see how much we care.