

# EZEKIEL

## Chapters 1 & 2

"YOU SHALL  
KNOW THAT  
I AM THE LORD"

"Son of Man,  
Hear What I  
Say To You"

### Who was Ezekiel?

- ▶ "Ezekiel" means "God strengthens" or "May God strengthen."
- ▶ The book that bears his name opens with Ezekiel living among exiled Jews in Babylon.
- ▶ Ezekiel was a priest (1:3) and was married (24:15-24).
- ▶ The "thirtieth year" (1:1) very well could be referring to Ezekiel's age at the time of his first vision, which would suggest an intriguing connection to the timing of his final vision (40:1), which is dated as "the twenty-fifth year of our exile" (40:1), when Ezekiel would have been fifty.
  - In Numbers 4, we learn that "the sons of Levi" could "come on duty" as priests in Israel "from thirty years old up to fifty years old."
  - In exile, Ezekiel obviously would not have been able to serve in the Jerusalem temple, but the timing of these visions seems to coincide with what would have been his window of service to the descendants of Abraham.

### The Context of Ezekiel's Prophecy

- ▶ Ezekiel 1 is set in the Summer of 593 B.C., five years after the first group of exiles was deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar during the reign of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8-17). Ezekiel was most likely 25 years old when he was "carried away" to Babylon. At the time of Ezekiel 1, Jerusalem will not fall completely for another seven years (586 B.C., see 2 Kings 25).
- ▶ "Among the exiles by the Chebar canal" (1:1), Ezekiel is called to speak to a people who have been forced from their home because they have been unfaithful to their covenant with God.
- ▶ Throughout the book, Ezekiel serves as a spokesman for the God of Israel and repeatedly gives voice to some variation of, "You shall know that I am the LORD" (see 36:22-23). Even in the midst of their bitter exile, God's desire for his people is clear: "Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live" (18:31-32).



**The LORD:** What are we able to see about God in **Ezekiel 1 & 2**?

**The Problem:** What problem has provoked this communication from God in **Ezekiel 1 & 2**?

**The Warning:** According to **Ezekiel 1 & 2**, what is God going to do about the problem?

**The Hope:** Do you see any cause for hope in **Ezekiel 1 & 2**?

**The Takeaway:** As those who “should remember the predictions of the holy prophets” (2 Pet 3:2), what should we learn from **Ezekiel 1 & 2**?

