

Ezekiel 3:1-27 **Eat the Word of Yahweh – Watchman on the Wall**

The Responsibility of the Prophet

1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

4 Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

5 For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, 6 not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.

Yahweh prepared Ezekiel for the difficult task assigned to him

8 Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads.

9 Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."

10 Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears.

11 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."

Transported by the Spirit

12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place!"

13 I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise.

14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me.

15 Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.

Ezekiel is made a Watchman for the house of Israel

16 Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

22 Then the hand of the Lord was upon me there, and He said to me, "Arise, go out into the plain, and there I shall talk with you."

23 So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face.

24 Then the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and spoke with me and said to me: "Go, shut yourself inside your house.

25 And you, O son of man, surely they will put ropes on you and bind you with them, so that you cannot go out among them.

26 I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and not be one to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house.

27 But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

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Facts Revealed:

✧ Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. [Ezekiel 3:1-3]

✧ For a prophet to faithfully share the Word of God he must first internalize it.

✧ The Word of God is sweet and satisfying to the one seeking it.

✧ Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. [Ezekiel 3:4-7]

✧ Ezekiel is sent to his own countrymen who share the same language.

✧ If the message was sent to Gentile people it would have been well received.

✧ But the people of Israel have hardened their hearts against the Word of God and they refuse to be instructed by the word from their own prophet calling them to repentance.

Yahweh prepared Ezekiel for the difficult task assigned to him

✧ Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads.

Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."

Moreover He said to me: "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 Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God),' whether they hear, or whether they refuse."

[Ezekiel 3:8-11]

- ✧ Yahweh strengthened Ezekiel to face the violent ridicule and rejection of the rebellious people of Israel.
- ✧ Ezekiel must receive the Words of Yahweh into his heart that he may speak it to the people faithfully even when they reject it.
- ✧ The people are responsible for their reaction to the message whether they listen or refuse to hear.

Transported by the Spirit

- ✧ Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of Yahweh (the Lord) from His place!"

I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise.

So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of Yahweh (the Lord) was strong upon me.

Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days. [Ezekiel 3:12-15]

- ✧ Ezekiel was lifted up by the Spirit and he could hear the sound of a great voice praising Yahweh.
- ✧ As he was carried to the captives at Tel Abib near the River Chebar he could hear the sound of the living creatures and the wheels beside them.
- ✧ He could feel the heat of his spirit, and the hand of Yahweh was strong upon him.
- ✧ For seven days he sat among the captives in astonishment at his experience.

Ezekiel is made a Watchman for the house of Israel [Ezekiel 3:16-27]

- ✧ Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: [Ezekiel 3:16-17]

- ✧ The Watchman is appointed by Yahweh.
- ✧ He is required to hear and understand the Word from Yahweh and give warning to the people.
- ✧ When Yahweh says to the wicked that he will surely die, the Watchman must speak to warn the wicked.
- ✧ If he does not give the warning, the wicked will die and Yahweh will hold the Watchman responsible.
- ✧ If the Watchman warns the wicked and the wicked refuses to repent, the wicked one will die in his iniquity but the watchman will have saved his own soul because he did his duty and the wicked made his choice.
- ✧ If the watchman keeps silent and gives no warning, and a righteous man stumbles over a stumbling block and commits iniquity, he shall die, all his righteous deeds will not be remembered and he will die in his iniquity, but the Watchman will be held responsible because he did not give warning.
- ✧ It is imperative that the warning be given to both the wicked and to the righteous.
- ✧ If the watchman had given the warning he delivered his soul by fulfilling his responsibility.

☆ Then the hand of Yahweh (the Lord) was upon me there, and He said to me, "Arise, go out into the plain, and there I shall talk with you."

So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of Yahweh (the Lord) stood there, like the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. [\[Ezekiel 3:22-23\]](#)

✧ Ezekiel was called to go out to the plain where he saw the glory of Yahweh like he had seen in his first vision and he fell on his face.

✧ The Spirit entered Ezekiel, stood him on his feet, and gave him instructions.

✧ Go into to your own house, they will bind you with ropes so you cannot go out among them.

✧ Yahweh will make Ezekiel mute so he cannot rebuke them because they are a rebellious house.

✧ When Yahweh speaks He will open Ezekiel's mouth and Ezekiel will say, "Thus says Adoney Yahweh."

✧ The people will have the right to choose to hear the message or to refuse it.

✧ They are a rebellious house, and Yahweh will hold them responsible for the choice they make.