

Ezekiel's Call to Ministry

Ezekiel 1, 2, 3

Group ¹	C	V	Description
The Vision of Four Figures	1	1-3	Time & Setting of Ezekiel's Visions
		4-14	Four Living Beings
		15-21	Wheels Full of Eyes
Vision of Divine Glory	1	22-25	Expanse Above the Living Beings
		26-28	A throne & its occupant
The Prophet's Call	2	1-7	Ezekiel's call
		8-10	Scroll given to Ezekiel
Ezekiel's Commission	3	1-3	Ezekiel eats the scroll
		4-11	Ezekiel sent to stubborn Israel
		12-15	The spirit empowers Ezekiel
		16-21	Ezekiel's duty: Proclaim the message
		22-27	Ezekiel will be bound by rebellious Israel

Reflections

Ezekiel begins his ministry with a series of visions: four living creatures, wheels full of eyes, and a throne in an expanse above the four living creatures. These are unusual to say the least. Ezekiel's response to this vision is to fall on his face, likely in a mixture of fear (and who wouldn't be afraid if you saw something like this) and awe or worship because of the One sitting on the throne.

The voice from the One on the throne instructs Ezekiel to stand up and listen. The voice, which we know to be the Lord, tells Ezekiel to go and speak to the sons of Israel, "a rebellious house", and speak boldly in the name of the Lord so that they will know that a prophet was among them, whether they listen or not. Ezekiel is then told to eat a scroll which is written on, front and back, containing "lamentations, mourning, and woe."

The idea of eating a scroll is further defined in 3:10.

Ezekiel 3:10 NASB Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I will speak to you and listen closely.

Something similar is also used by John in Rev 10:9-10. Paul instructs Timothy to be absorbed in "the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching" among other things in 1Ti 4:13-16. All Christians can benefit from studying God's word but this is especially important for those who are called to preach and teach.

Some other verses to consider in this matter are the following.²

Psalms 19:7-10 NASB The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. **8** The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. **9** The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true;

1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 (Smith) on Eze 2:8, with additions.

Ezekiel's Call to Ministry

they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:130-131 NASB 130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. 131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.

Jeremiah 1:7-9 NASB But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak. 8 "Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD. 9 Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

Jeremiah 15:16 NASB Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 NASB You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

There are probably more verses that could be included but I'll leave those for you to discover as you read God's word.

What is being described here is a meditating on God's word. The idea is to think on, or chew on, a passage of Scripture so that you can fully comprehend what the passage says. This is not like the meditation of Eastern religions during which you empty your mind but instead you are encouraged to engage your mind to stay active in thinking about the concepts found in the Scriptures.

If you are looking for a simple guide to help you reflect on a passage, here is an outline that I use to search out the meaning of a text.

- ➔ Begin with a simple prayer, asking God to help you understand whatever text you are meditating on.
- ➔ Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life³: *my LOG vs others SPECK*.
 - S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?
 - P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?
 - E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?
 - C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?
 - K - How can this passage increase my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?
- ➔ Record your observations. The act of writing can help you see things that you might miss otherwise. A composition book works fine but you can use whatever you like.
- ➔ Consider how you would incorporate your insights in your life: actions, attitudes, etc.
- ➔ Close with prayer asking God to strengthen you, though His Spirit, to help live to honor Him and give Him the glory He deserves.

Are there *principles* to guide?
Are there *warnings* to heed?
Are there *attitudes* to adopt?
Are there *actions* to take?

3 (The Navigators) (with additions) & Matthew 7:1-5.

Ezekiel's Call to Ministry

Key Words: Old Testament, Prophecy, Ezekiel, Visions, Calling, Priesthood, Meditation, Bible Study



This work by James Swanson is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) International License. Originally published at studythebook.org on May 27, 2016.

Bibliography

(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

Smith, Jerome H. *Nelson's Cross-Reference Guide to the Bible: Illuminating God's Word Verse-by-Verse.* Thomas Nelson, 2007. Print.

The Navigators. *The Navigator Bible Studies Handbook.* Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1986. Print.