

“THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD!”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL
September 17, 2017
“THE ONLY PROPER RESPONSE TO THE GLORY OF GOD”
Ezekiel 1:1-2:10

I. GOD MAY REVEAL HIMSELF WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT. DO NOT LET YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES BLOCK YOUR VIEW OF HIS GLORY. (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

- A. In order to see the glory of God, you need to believe He is in control of every situation, even the ones that hurt and disappoint you. Ezekiel should have been preparing for priestly ministry, but was living like a refugee in a concentration camp far from home.
- B. What seems like a long time to us is like a nanosecond to the Eternal God. Ezekiel had endured five years of painful silence and discouragement. How long have you been waiting to hear from the Lord?

II. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS NEVER AFFECTED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF MAN, LOOK FOR REMINDERS THAT HE IS IN CONTROL. (Ezekiel 1:4-28)

- A. In what appeared like a thunderstorm that only one person saw or heard, the Lord showed up to prepare his man for the future. Do you live with a sense of expectation?

B. The throne of God and the glory of God overwhelm our capacity to explain what our senses perceive. Embrace the description of what the vision was “like”, and be grateful you did not have the assignment to describe what you saw!

C. The imagery described by Ezekiel serves as a reminder that God’s glory is everywhere, touching heaven and earth, and was never limited to the Temple in Israel where He often manifested His glory.

- 1. God’s holiness is like a blazing fire
- 2. He rules over all creation
- 3. The wheels can symbolize being in motion and covering all directions at once

OUR LORD IS OMNIPOTENT, OMNIPRESENT, AND OMNISCIENCE!

III. THE EFFECTUAL CALL OF GOD ONLY COMES TO THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE HIS GLORY AND RESPOND PROPERLY TO HIM. (Ezekiel 1:28 - 2:10)

- A. Ezekiel bowed down to worship in the presence of the glory of God. Have you ever responded like that? if not, are you sure you have ever encountered Him in real worship? Real encounters with the Lord are life changing!

“ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priest could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD. (1st Kings 8:10-11)

B. The call of God may involve the most difficult assignments you can ever imagine. If He has not empowered you, expect to fail in your efforts of ministry. (Ezekiel 2:1-3)

C. Servants of the Lord are often called to speak to people who are rebellious, stubborn, and obstinate (the Israelites are called rebellious eight times in chapters 2&3!) and we must speak God's truth regardless of the response of the listeners. (Ezekiel 2:4-7)

D. We are to receive and proclaim the entire counsel of God. There are sections of Scripture that are hard to swallow if you do not know the Lord and refuse to learn the entire message of the Word of God. Judgment is pending for all who choose to rebel. Joy awaits all who respond to His love and grace.

EZEKIEL WAS CALLED TO A HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT, AND DID IT FAITHFULLY BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN THE GLORY OF GOD. ARE YOU WILLING TO DO WHATEVER THE LORD CALLS YOU TO DO?

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