

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## EZEKIEL 3:1-11

### LESSON: THE CALL OF EZEKIEL —July 23, 2017

#### INTRODUCTION:

**<sup>1</sup>Chapter 1:1-28—The vision of the glory of God:** This was a very special experience for Ezekiel. He felt the power of God. He saw the special angels called Cherubim. He saw God's throne. He even saw an impression of God's glory. And then God spoke...

**Chapter 2:1-10—The Lord tells Ezekiel what he must do:** God told Ezekiel to stand on his feet and He would speak to him. At that time the Spirit entered Ezekiel and enabled him to stand as the Spirit spoke to him. "Son of man" was the title that God used for Ezekiel during his vision (2:1). It emphasized that Ezekiel was a mere "*human man; mortal; dust.*" God tells him that He's sending him to a rebellious nation that wouldn't listen to Him. Ezekiel will say, "*Thus saith the Lord God*" whether they hear or forbear (choose not to do), they will know that a prophet was among them. And God says "*be not afraid of them (talking about Israel), neither be afraid of their words...nor be dismayed at their looks.*" Each prophet God sends forth He tells them this. God repeats Himself again to Ezekiel and adds "*just speak my words to them.*" God was giving the people one more opportunity to obey him. Ezekiel still had a duty to declare God's message. He tells Ezekiel, "*not to be rebellious, but open his mouth and eat what He gives him.*" Ezekiel is handed a scroll; a roll of a book with words written on front and back while opening it. It was full of warnings, sorrow and pronouncements of doom (2:9-10).

#### LESSON: I. A SYMBOLIC ENDOWMENT Ezekiel 3:1-3

**3:1** Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. After being handed the scroll, Ezekiel is called "*Son of man*" again and was told to eat the roll, then go speak to the house of Israel. Why? In 2:6 God called them a rebellious house. As God touched the mouth of Jeremiah for him to speak, Ezekiel was told to eat the scroll—the Words of God! The Word has to be in you to speak. You speak because He's in you to do so.

**3:2** So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. That had to be a scene—opening his mouth and the Words go flying in; or opening his mouth and being hand fed by God. God has a purpose any way He does it, so long as you open your mouth when God says so! By Ezekiel eating the scroll it symbolized the acceptance of the responsibility to utter it at God's direction.

**3:3** And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. Now that the roll was in Ezekiel's mouth,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/ezekiel1-24-lbw.htm>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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God tells him, Son of man now let your stomach eat, let it fill his intestines; his insides, meaning, let it become a part of him. Ezekiel says he did what God told him to do, and it tasted sweet like honey in his mouth. Remember, what he's eating: words full of warnings, sorrow, and pronouncements of doom, but God made it taste sweet to him.

## II. A DIFFICULT MISSION Ezekiel 3:4-7

**3:4** And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. Well, right after eating and digesting the scroll, God said "*Son of man go now to the house of Israel.*" Go now and do the task I have assigned you to. Go now and speak my words to them.

**3:5** For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel;— The Words within Ezekiel is not strange or a confusing language to the house of Israel. Ezekiel has been sent to God's people and He knows just what to tell them and how to tell them.

**3:6** Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. God allows Israel to hear Ezekiel's message in their own language so they couldn't make excuses saying they didn't understand. God lets Ezekiel know that he does not sent him to people who speak strange words and difficult languages that he couldn't pronounce. If God sent him there, these people's ears would have perked up and would immediately listen to him.

**3:7** But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. But God already knows that this was going to be a difficult mission because the house of Israel won't listen. They didn't listen to God and they won't listen to Ezekiel for they are disrespectful and hardened in their hearts because of sin.

## III. A DIVINE ASSURANCE Ezekiel 3:8-11

**3:8** Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. God says look now to deal with them He's made Ezekiel's face hard and stubborn; stronger than their faces. And even his forehead would be stronger; harder than a rock against their forehead. God did this to surpass the people, keep his servant faithful in the mission, and to sustain his ministry as prophet to the exiles.

**3:9** As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. As special preparation against the stubbornness of Israel, Ezekiel will be steeled in nerve and courage for whatever opposition he may face. Symbolically, he will be made as hard as "*adamant.*" This word is used frequently by Isaiah meaning "*thorn-bushes.*" In Jeremiah 17:1 it is translated "*diamond*", and denotes the point of an engraving implement. It also appears figuratively to describe hardness of heart (Zech.7:12). This is the divine assurance God gives Ezekiel. Therefore, he is not to fear them and not to be perturbed or brother by their looks, for they are rebellious, opposing God, and refusing to obey Him.

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**3:10** Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. Also, to the Son of man, he was to believe and listen to all the Words that God speaks. And he was to receive them, meaning to sink deep in his heart and in his ears.

**3:11** And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord God; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. God says go to His people that are in exile, whether or not they listen and tell them anyway, because this all comes from the Lord; this is what the Lord God says!

## SUMMARY:

God calls Ezekiel the "*Son of man*" telling him to eat the scroll before he goes to speak to the house of Israel. So Ezekiel opens his mouth and God caused him to eat the scroll and God's Words fill his stomach. As he ate it, it tasted sweet as honey (**3:1-3**).

After eating the scroll God tells Ezekiel to go to the house of Israel and speak to the Words to them that God had given him. God is not sending him to a nation with strange words and a difficult language, but He's sending him to the Israelites, God's people. If he went anywhere else he wouldn't understand them, but they would listen to him. It's the house of Israel who will not listen to him any more than they listened to God, for they are disrespectful and hardhearted (**3:4-7**).

God will make Ezekiel's face strong against their faces, and his forehead strong against their foreheads. God tells Ezekiel not to be afraid nether be dismayed at their looks, even though they are rebels. The "*Son of man*" is told to receive in his heart and hear with his ears all the Words that God speaks; go to his people that are in exile, whether or not they listen and tell them anyway, because this is what the Lord God says (**3:8-11**).