

# ***“Providentially Picked to Plow & Prepare”***

## Ezekiel 1-3

### **1:3 = Context:**

*“...the word of the Lord came to Ez the priest...”*

*“...in the land of the Chaldeans...” (Babylon)*

*“...and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.”*

Key: - per 2 Timothy 3:16... Ez’s words are God’s words!  
- Ez was groomed for this... **SO WERE YOU!**

Key: - Prophetic progression: **Warning – Wrath – Aftermath**  
- Ez commentary from within concentration camp

**1:28** = Rainbow describes in part the *“appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord...”*

\*\*\* Closing of Ez’s **Chariot VISION... “wheels” are key!**

**2:1** = *“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.’”* **2:2** = *“And as he spoke to me **(A)**, the Spirit entered into me **(B)** and set me on my feet **(C)**, and I heard him speaking to me **(D)**.”*

**Key:** Ez (and YOU) are Spirit...

- A).** Elected,
- B).** Entered,
- C).** Empowered,
- D).** Equipped

**2:3** = *“And he said to me, Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.”*

- Key: - Again... it is God who is speaking & sending!  
- God's professed people, in reality "rebels" rejecting Him  
- **Refined "rebels" are really "good" God-haters."**

- JDP

## **VIDEO: "Christian Atheist"** (LIFE Groups)

**2:4** = *"The descendants also are obstinate and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'*

- Key: - **Like father like son....** witness/ripple affect matters  
- Obstinate & Stubborn = **pattern** vs. *oops...* = LOST!

**2:5** = *"and **whether they hear or refuse to hear** (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them."*

- Key: - *"whether they"*
- Don't miss the importance of this distinction
  - Don't get caught up in pragmatics & "results"
  - Faithful obedience = Christian's only measure!
- *"...whether they **hear or refuse to hear...**"*
- Many "hear" but never "listen"
  - Each person has a choice... hear or refuse...
  - To "refuse" = decisive contemplation!
    - 1). "refuse to hear" = choose to rebel
    - 2). **REBELS REFUSE!**
- *"they will know"*
- \* God has written His truth on every man's heart
  - \* Rebels are/will be like those who refuse to evacuate in the face of a known natural disaster... who later complain about the first responders...

- "...that a prophet"
  - Prophet = set apart & sent, to speak for God!
  - **True prophets don't struggle with becoming "known" – they struggle because they are known...** - JDP
  - \* **"The effectiveness of a prophet is better measured by his "rejection rate" than his "retention rate..."** - JDP
    - 1). See O.T. prophets...
    - 2). See N.T. disciples...
    - 3). See Jesus!!!
      - **Big cross...**
      - **Moderate crowds...**
      - **Tiny Church!**

**2:6** = "and you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house."

- Key: - "be not afraid" = what are you afraid of in this world?
- What you fear has control over you...
  - **"When fear overrides faith, the believer is living in unbelief."** - JDP
  - **Who & what you fear (and love) define you!** - JDP

- Key:
- "be not afraid of them nor be afraid of their words..."
    - What does it mean to not fear "their words?"
      - 1). Sticks and stones can break...
      - 2). **"ALL threats are idle threats when you don't fear their consequences."** - JDP
      - 3). "fearing words" applies to:
        - \*\*\* Rejection
        - \*\*\* Perception
        - \*\*\* Reputation

- **"...nor be dismayed..."**

dis·may

1. to **break down the courage**; to alarm

- Synonyms = DISCOURAGE & DISCONNECT
- "Fear" is the fruit of unbelief!

- **"...for they are a rebellious house."**

- *"Faithful & passionate prophets push past the perceptions, opinions, & threats of those who reject & rebel against God!" – JDP*
- **"You don't listen to the fox when it comes to fixing the hen house" – JDP**
- **"God-lovers neither follow nor fear God-haters!" – JDP**

**2:8a** = *"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house..."*

Key: - CONTRAST... the rebels v. the redeemed

- Respond v. Reject... Realize v. Rebel...
- Look around! Take notice of the world and its ways... Pay special attention... and then.....
- DON'T BE ANYTHING LIKE WHAT YOU SEE!

**2:8b – 3:3** = God giving His prophet(s) His Word...

*...Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; **open your mouth and eat what I give you.** 9 And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning*

and woe. **3:1** Then 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 fed me this scroll. **3** He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then **I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.**

Key: - God not only tells us to eat... He hands-feeds us!  
• Christ's hand stretched out from the cross

Key: - God gave Ez His words... God gives us His Word!  
- God's Word includes: "*lamentations, mourning & woe*"  
• LOOK! See how much of Bible is "corrective"  
• "**lamentations**" = cry out for God to resolve...  
• "**mourning**" = crying out due to God's wrath...  
• "**woe**" = warning wrath & crying are coming...

**Ezekiel sounds a lot like Jesus...**

## **Matthew 23 Seven Woes**

**23** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples... do not do what (the teachers of the law and the Pharisees) do, for they do not practice what they preach... **5** "Everything they do is done for men to see..."

**13** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!"

**15** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!"

**16** "Woe to you, blind guides!..."

**17** You blind fools!... **19** You blind men!

**23** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!"

**24** You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

**25** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup... but inside are full of greed and self-indulgence."

**27** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

**29** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

**33** "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Key:

- "...go, speak to the house of Israel..."
  - God sends the redeemed to the rebels!
  - **Tragically, today many churches are mission fields!** - JDP

Key: - **"...then I ate it and it was sweet as honey."**

- Is God's Word sweet or sour to you?

**3:4** = "And He said to me, 'Son of man, go to the home of Israel and speak with my words to them.'"

Key: - Parallel Ezekiel 3:4 AND Matthew 28:19

- **"Take Christianity to the churches!"** - JDP
- "You can't do cleansing surgery in a dirty & disease-ridden operating room." - JDP
- **Tell the people "My" truth-in-love...**
- THIS IS THE GOSPEL!
- Note: We have no liberty to edit God's words

**3:5-6a** = "For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel - not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand..."

- Key: - The LOST are right here at home... in church!  
- Personal application: Pearson family here vs China

**3:6b** = *"Surely, if I sent you to such (a people of foreign speech), they would listen to you. "*

- Key: - Pragmatism has no place amongst the prophets!  
Key: - Big difference between "good" ideas & God ideas  
Key: - Don't chase worldly results... but faithful obedience...

**3:7** = ***"But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to Me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart."***

Key: Here is the PROBLEM...

**3:8-9** = *"Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. 9 Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house."*

**Key: We & Ez are custom-made PLOWS...**

**3:10** = *"Moreover, He said to me, 'Son of man, **all My words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart**, and hear with your ears."*

**3:11** = *"**And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear or refuse to hear.**"*

**3:17-21 = A Watchman for Israel**

**17** *"...**I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, **warn them from Me.*****

**18** When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, **but his blood I will require at your hand.** **19** Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself. **20** Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; **since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.** **21** However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself."