

## “You shall know that I Am the Lord”

Ezekiel was a prophet of God and a contemporary of Daniel; although there is no indication that they knew each other. He was also trained as a priest. However, because of the captivity, he was never able to perform his duties as a priest. Ezekiel was what is called a Pedagogy; he not only gave the message, he acted it out!

God commissions Ezekiel to be a prophet. He gets a wild vision and God gives him the commission to be a spokesperson to the captives in Babylon. Ezekiel explains the captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem to Judah. At the time all of the surrounding nations were enemies of Judah and they were happy when they heard she was captured. But God will punish them. God does promise to restore the Jews back to their land.

A detailed description of the millennial kingdom in Israel is given in the final 9 chapters.

## Say it! Play it! Pray it!

<b>Objectives:</b>	Play out the Role of Ezekiel in his role as a spokesperson to Judah Gain insight into our own faith. Have fun with your family.
<b>Number of Players:</b>	4 or more (narrator, God, Ezekiel, the captives)
<b>Length:</b>	30 - 45 minutes
<b>Set up:</b>	You can get as elaborate as you like. As the story is played out, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel. Have Ezekiel be addressing the people of Israel--the captives (he is a captive too, so have him in the captive area). When God speaks, He is addressing Ezekiel. But have Him speak from a place where He can be heard but not seen. Have the captives be bound--either tied hand and foot, or, penned up in a make-shift pen.

**Narrator:** On the fifth of the month, which was in the fifth year of King Johoiachin’s captivity, the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.

**Ezekiel:** Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of



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calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.

As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went.

Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

As for their rims, they were so high they were very awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

And He said to me,

**God:** Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you..

**Ezekiel:** Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. And He said to me:

**God:** Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. Do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.

**Ezekiel:** Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. Moreover He said to me,

**God:** Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.

**Ezekiel:** So I opened my mouth and He caused me to eat that scroll.

**God:** 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.

You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem. Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around.

Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when you have completed them, lie again on your



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right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.

Also take for yourself wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt; put them into one vessel, and make bread of them for yourself. During the number of days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days, you shall eat it. And your food which you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; from time to time you shall eat it. You shall also drink water by measure, one-sixth of a hin; from time to time you shall drink. And you shall eat it as barley cakes; and bake it using fuel of human waste in their sight.

So shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the gentiles, where I will drive them.

**Ezekiel:** Ah, Lord God! Indeed I have never defiled myself from my youth till now; I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has abominable flesh ever come into my mouth.

**Narrator:** God is portraying what life will be like when Jerusalem is under siege. Ezekiel comes unglued! He's a priest, a kosher kid, he was brought up to eat properly and this contradicts all of his rearing.

**God:** See, I am giving you cow dung instead of human waste, and you shall prepare your bread over it.

Son of man, surely I will cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and shall drink water by measure and with dread, that they may lack bread and water, and waste away because of their iniquity.

Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. I will scatter your bones all around your altars. In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries. Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me. And they shall know that I am the Lord.

**Narrator:** The Lord is holy and unique. The people are separated from Him because of their sin. The purpose of the captivity was to remind them of this. And, it worked. When they returned from the captivity, they never were idolaters in the same way.

**Discussion:** Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life. Questions to consider: Have you ever done something that you knew you were not supposed to and then had to suffer the consequences? What did you learn from that experience? What can you learn from Ezekiel's obedience to the Lord? What steps can you take to insure that you do not go astray from obeying God.



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**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision, for His mercies that are new each morning, and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.