

## ***Ezekiel***

### **1. Imagine that you, like Ezekiel, were forcibly removed from Israel to Mesopotamia in 597 BC. What are some of the reactions or feelings welling up within you toward God?**

I may have felt anger at being included with others that had lived so poorly and ignored God's many warnings, maybe if I was back there I could help turn the people back to God. Frustration that the prophet's warnings had not been enough to change the ways of the people and that the final seconds were ticking off the clock. Perhaps disappointment that the Promised Land was about to be lost and extreme sorrow to leave God's blessing, my homeland and to watch it slip away and be destroyed.

### **2. What may be the meaning of the fiery-wheeled vehicle in Ezekiel 1?**

Perhaps it was meant to bring encouragement to Ezekiel similar to the almond branch that Jeremiah saw above him in a vision. I am watching over you and protecting you (says God). Definitely it impressed on Ezekiel the holiness, might and wonder of God. It also demonstrated God's ability to watch over His people.

### **3. Please read Ezekiel 16, called the "Foundling Allegory". How many elements of this allegory correlate to Judah's actual (historical) experience? (Respond by listing each allegorical element, followed by its corresponding historical experience.)**

The Unfaithful History of Jerusalem

V3 The baby – Jerusalem 0 was an Amorite and Hittite city founded by the heathen people in Canaan.

V4-5 baby left out to die- Jerusalem – not entirely conquered and cleansed by the Hebrew people.

V6 baby saved from death – God sent David to rescue Judah.

V7 baby grew – Judah – grew as a lovely young woman grows into a healthy nation.

V8-14 she was betrothed to God- David brought the ark to Jerusalem, the temple construction began as a groom to His bride God blessed Judah and gave marriage gifts to His people.

V15 Bride becomes a prostitute – Solomon's many wives from other lands were an example of how as this country was blessed by God it used treaties with other nations to secure its peace rather than trusting in God...it used its beauty to bring it safety and peace.

V16-22 She made male idols – they became married to the gifts of God rather than God – idols were worshipped and even children sacrificed to these idols.

Vs 23-25 the prostitution was wanton – the God given beauty of this promised land became detestable to the Lord as heathen practices became an advocate of these practices.

Vs 26-29 prostitution with Egypt and Assyria- Jereboam I among others made treaties with Egypt, God delivered Jerusalem to the Philistines and portions of Hebrew lands were taken away... Ahaz sought relations with Assyria...overtures to Babylon were made during the reign of Hezekiah. Political relations with these countries brought the demand to worship their gods/

Vs 30-34 A prostitute that pays you- the way the nation approached others and gave them gifts was like the prostitute who pursues others and pays them!

Vs 35-43 The prostitute pointed out – God would use these very nations now to discipline her! Babylonian invasion in 586.

Vs 44-58 Three sisters – (Jerusalem- Sodom – Samaria) - Three sisters who are all alike in their evil ways. The fall of Jerusalem would humble her.

Vs 59-63 restoring the promise of His love for her- the remnant will be brought back.

God will be rejoined to His bride.

#### **4. What seems to be the connotation of "Son of Man" in Ezekiel?**

This is a reminder to Ezekiel of his humanness and the total dependence needed on the spirit of God in order to fulfill his assigned tasks. Jesus used this term to describe himself, as the weakness of man is highlighted here against the strength of totally depending on God.