

## EZEKIEL, INTRODUCTION/SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS

Say-Welcome to Sabbath school class. In our next few lessons we will be studying from the book of Ezekiel. At one of the Bible studies at the Feast this year, a question came up about Gog and Magog. There was no time available to answer the question and this is what inspired the study of Ezekiel.

Say-Let's bow our heads and ask God to help us with our study in our class today. Let's start out by finding out about Ezekiel.

Say-Ezekiel was the son of Buzi, a Zadokite priest. Zadokite priest means he was a member of a family of Jewish priests, a descent from Zadok, (means righteous) the priest of King David in the Bible.

Say-While Isaiah, the prophet had warned Judah about the coming captivity in Babylon, Ezekiel actually lived through the time of captivity as he was captured in 597 B. C. 11 years before Jerusalem fell and lived under King Nebuchadnezzar's rule. It was during this time in captivity, Ezekiel lost his wife.

Say-There were three sieges on Judah with the first captives taken to Babylon including the prophet Daniel in 606 B. C. Daniel was in captivity 9 years before Ezekiel came in the 2<sup>nd</sup> siege in 597 B. C. and they may have met often.

Say-The prophet, Jeremiah, was older and Ezekiel may have been a student of his. While Daniel and Ezekiel were both in captivity, Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem witnessing to God's people to repent and turn to God.

Say- God appointed Ezekiel to be a watchman to a hard and stubborn people. Here is what God told him. "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. 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", Ezekiel 3:8-11.

Say-Ezekiel faithfully did as God had directed him during what became known as Israel's darkest hours. We will find out in our lessons how Ezekiel remained faithful to God even though the surrounding nations were saying that his God was too weak to defend his people and the city of Jerusalem.

Say- Ezekiel knew and believed these Heathen nations would face a similar fate someday and would learn that God is the only God and all powerful and in full control of ALL things. Ezekiel knew God was allowing them to be defeated in order to punish them for their sins.

Say- We will learn in our study that after the fall of Jerusalem, Ezekiel delivered messages of the future restoration and hope for the people in captivity. We will learn many lessons from God through Ezekiel's visions and prophecies, many of which are yet to be fulfilled perhaps in our time. Some of his messages are linked with the book of Revelation such as Gog and Magog and the New Jerusalem.

Say-Our memory verse and dominant theme of the book of Ezekiel, which occurs in 62 places is, "They shall know that I am God"!

MEMORY VERSE

*"THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM GOD"!*

*EZEKIEL 6:7*

## EZEKIEL

EZEKIEL, A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD, WAS THE SON OF A JEWISH PRIEST;  
EZEKIEL WAS IN TRAINING AND AT THE TEMPLE,  
ON GOD'S LAWS, DAILY HE WOULD FEAST.

EZEKIEL HAD SOME SPECIAL FRIENDS, THE PROPHETS, JEREMIAH AND DANIEL TWO;  
TOGETHER THEY WORSHIPPED AT GOD'S TEMPLE  
EACH SABBATH AND EVERY FEAST DAY TOO.

SOON THINGS BEGIN TO CHANGE WHEN NEBU-  
CHADNEZZER ATTACKED JERUSALEM;  
DANIEL WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE AND OFF TO  
BABYLON HE WAS SENT.

ELEVEN YEARS LATER, EZEKIEL WAS ALSO  
TAKEN;  
BUT HE KNEW, BY GOD, HE WOULD NEVER BE  
FORSAKEN.

IN CAPTIVITY, EZEKIEL WAS OBEDIENT AND  
FAITHFUL TO GOD;  
BUSY AS A "SPOKESMAN" AND "WATCHMAN" IT  
WAS A FULL-TIME JOB.

"THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM GOD"

*EZEKIEL 6:7*

*By B. Burnham*