

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
EZEKIEL

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Ezekiel=Enigma. Who was Ezekiel?

Ezekiel, the PK

Contemporary of Jeremiah who ministry was based in Jerusalem

Ezekiel's ministry was to exiles in Babylon

In Babylon without the presence of a temple, someone was needed who knew, from the inside out, the worship tradition and liturgical life of the faith.

In so many small and unknown ways God prepares us for the work God envisions for us. God can use everything that happens to us, both good and bad as part of God's preparation for our life work. Dysfunction is part of our preparation.

There are divine reasons we were born into the families we were born (family life really is the foundation); when we were born (the times impact us); where we were born (places help to shape us).

Ezekiel, the Visionary

A visionary is a person who sees what is not. Most people can only see what they have been through and what is around them. Visionaries are exceptions and not the rule. The world and even the church, are often not kind to visionaries.

Visionaries often have trouble describing what they see because often the language of heaven and the language of the future is not the language of the past or the present.

Visionaries are those who are sometimes in touch with other worlds.

Ezekiel, the Watchman

Watch persons are

Anointed and accountable

Crowned and crucified

Holy and human

Inspired and ignored

Loved, loving and lonely

Respected and rewarded as well as being resented and rejected

Ezekiel, the Preacher with a Secret Burden (Ezekiel 24: 15-25)

How do we handle secret pressures and problems?

Much of the sin and dysfunction among us emerges not in our weakness or the power of the devil but from trying to manage the stress and pressure and contradictions of faith in our own lives.

Everybody is wrestling with something that others do not know about.

Ezekiel, Prophet of Hope

Structure of the Book of Ezekiel:

Inaugural Vision and Commission (Chapters 1-3)

Oracles Against Judah and Jerusalem (Chapters 4-24)

Oracles Against Foreign Nations and Rulers (Chapters 25-32)

Oracles Concerning the Restoration of Israel (Chapters 33-48)

Faith in troubled times must be guarded because faith breeds hope (Hebrews 11, particularly verses 35b-40)