

## **Ezekiel 3-4**

Good evening, Church.

It is wonderful to be here with you all tonight.

We are in the Book of Ezekiel and will look at Chapters 3-4.

Before we get into it, I do have some announcements.

This Saturday is the Women's Luncheon with Peggy Brown.

We have almost maxed out that event.

The girls told me you still have time, but the spots are limited, so please sign up quickly.

Also, next, I want to tell you that we have limited space for the marriage dinner... so please sign up as soon as possible.

We have Pastor Don McClure coming to share the Word that night.

So, with that said, let's pray, and we will get into the Word.

I read an article this week about the top 10 daredevils in recent times.

Some things that stood out included Magician David Blaine's balloon stunt, where he reached 24,900 feet and held massive helium-filled balloons.

There was also Evel Knievel's motorcycle jump over the fountain at Caesar's Palace in Vegas, clearing 14 Greyhounds.

He also tried and failed to clear Idaho's Snake River in a Steam-Powered Rocket, Saying, "I really wanted to fly through the air. I was a daredevil, a performer. I loved the thrill, the money, the whole macho thing."

He still holds the Guinness World Record for the most broken bones in a lifetime.

There was also Felix Baumgartner, who parachuted from a height of 24.3 Miles, smashing through eight world records and the sound barrier in a 2012 free-fall jump.

He traveled at Mach 1.24 before deploying his parachute and landing in New Mexico.<sup>1</sup>

All these events and daredevils attracted huge crowds as it is human nature to be mesmerized by daring stunts.

And God uses this, our human tendency to be drawn to the dramatics, to speak to His people at times.

In the Old Testament, when the Jews refused to listen to the preaching of the prophets or the Word of God, God would resort to stunts or object lessons.

He would give visual dramatizations and have the prophet do a demonstrative act before the people.

And Ezekiel was called to do more of these performances than any other prophet.

God commissioned Ezekiel to do some strange and wild things to get the attention of His people.

Remember, Ezekiel was called to speak to the Jews in captivity in Babylon.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://spyscape.com/article/top-10-most-insane-daredevil-stunts-of-all-time>

He would be used to communicate essential truths concerning their faith in God and their future as a nation.

Remember, last week, we ended with these verses...

Ezekiel 2:9-10 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 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.

We will see now; the Lord will ask something strange of Ezekiel regarding this scroll...

So, let's get into, starting in verse 1 of Chapter 3...

### **The Responsibility of the Prophet**

3:1 Moreover 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 caused me to eat that scroll.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you."

So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

I don't know if this is literal: "Ezekiel, dip that scroll in sauce and eat it."

Today, we use idioms like, "I devoured that book."

When we say that, we don't mean that we ate it but enjoyed the book so much that we could not put it down.

Or we might say, "I ate up every word of that book."

It is a term that lets people know we read and absorbed the book's content.

God is asking Ezekiel to absorb the content of this scroll and then speak to the house of Israel.

And as he was reading it, the content seemed to be good...

God was giving incredible promises to Ezekiel about a new future, a new age of the Spirit, the Day of the Lord.

But before that sweet time promised by God comes, this world will experience tremendous trials and bitter experiences.

Interestingly, in Revelation, the Apostle John has a similar experience.

Rev 10:9-11 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

John was also given a Revelation with sweet promises, but the things that transpired between the New Glorious Hope would be terrible, as God's judgment would fall upon this earth.

The coming Kingdom is always a sweet, pleasant topic to digest, but what comes before is much more challenging to read about.

This is how it is dealing with God's Word.

Maybe you have experienced this in your life.

You will be in the Word in the morning, doing your devotion, and the Lord will speak to you powerfully and clearly, and you will love what God is saying.

He tells you something like, "They will know us by our love for one another."

"Oh, that is so good, Lord; thank you for that reminder; it is our Love for another that the world will be drawn into the Church."

Then you get to Church, so excited to be with the people of God, still chewing on the sweetness of God's Word.

But someone is in your seat, and it looks like they are not moving. They have their Bibles in their laps, their purse under their chair... They must know that is your

seat; you have sat in it every day for the last three years.

They must have done it on purpose. You have noticed they have been eyeing that seat for some time and must have gotten here early. And you think, “Maybe I should get the Elders together to confront my sister because that is my seat.”

Then the Lord reminds you, “It is by your Love for one another that they will know you are My disciples.”

Suddenly, the sweetness of God’s Word becomes bitter, as we now have to put it to work.

It was so sweet as we meditated on it all, but the bitterness comes in when it comes to living it out.

When we go out to eat, our youngest, Uriah, asks for ketchup on his fries. Instead of eating the fries with the ketchup, he licks the ketchup off the fries and asks for more ketchup.

Many people do this with God’s Word; they like to lick up the sweet but have trouble digesting the meat and living out what God asks.



The Bible deserves more than just a casual reading; we need to bite into it, chew it up, swallow it, and let it become a part of our lives.

We have to digest its content.

So Ezekiel is tasting the sweetness of the scroll.

And we read here in verse 4...

4 Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. 5 For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, 6 not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

We might think that if God had called Ezekiel to a foreign land with a people speaking a foreign language and culture rather than Israel, it would have been a more challenging assignment.

But God sent the prophet to his own people.

He did not need Rosetta Stone to learn a new language.

But even with the familiarity, this would be a more challenging assignment.

Those who were in spiritual darkness would have been illuminated with the truth.

But for the Jews, they had a sense that they had heard it all, and the light they once had had become darkness.

They assumed they would be okay because they were God's special people, but their hearts were far from their God.

We often find it challenging to be a minister in the US.

We have found that people often have heard it all before when we reach out here in the States.

Many still think they are okay; some feel because they are American that, they are Christian automatically.

It can be harder to reach people who don't necessarily believe they are sinners who need a Savior.

Being familiar with Truth can sometimes breed contempt for Truth.

Ezekiel will find this to be true in his ministry.

Verse 7...

7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. 8 Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. 9 Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."

In so many words, God tells Ezekiel that he needs to be as hard-headed as his countrymen.

Some of you have this gift, and it is a good thing God uses it.

You were stubborn in the world, but God sanctifies your stubbornness, which has become beneficial.

Old friends or bad habits cannot manipulate your decision to follow Jesus; you are stubborn to go the right path.

Maybe stubborn is the wrong word; you are steadfast in your commitment to Christ.

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We are called to be consistent, reliable, faithful, and steadfast.

That stubbornness can be used to bless your life.

Only when you are stubbornly selfish and self-motivated does that stubbornness become negative.

Jesus promised us in John 16:33 “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

We are to expect hard times, as an enemy works relentlessly in our lives.

He will resist us and fight us every step of the way... Expect it and be stubborn and steadfast.

In 1905, the University of Bern in Germany turned down a PhD dissertation by a young student named Albert Einstein as irrelevant and fanciful. Einstein had to learn early in life to reject the rejection!

If you're going to live a Christian life, you must also learn to reject rejection. Keep your eyes on God, and don't be intimidated by others' looks and laughs.<sup>2</sup>

Ezekiel had to be stubborn in his ministry.

Verse 10 now...

10 Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears. 11 And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse."

This speaks to us about getting the Word of God out.

I am a sower of God's Word, the Seed, and I hope that when the Word of God goes forth, it is received into hearts.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sandyadams.org/sermon/ezekiel-4-7/>

I know my lane, what God has called me to, and I know better than to step out of that lane.

Interestingly, God tells Ezekiel not to worry about the results or the fruit of his preaching.

God called Ezekiel to preach and to warn the people, and whether they listened or not did not matter; it was his job to speak God's Word.

We live in a culture that determines success by numbers and how many people come in contact with something.

This creeps into the Church... and people start bragging about the notches they have in their belt.

You share how God is moving... "Man, we had five people attend our home fellowship; it was amazing." But the person you tell, instead of rejoicing with you, they say, "Well, we had seven!"

You lead a co-worker to the Lord and share it at your men's bible study, and instead of being happy for you, it becomes a brag session, "Well, I led three guys to the Lord in that same period of time."

But the reality is, no one can boast because of this truth God is telling Ezekiel: The Lord does the work of drawing people to Himself.

So, this one-upmanship should not be in the Body of Christ.

We are only responsible for being faithful to what God called us to, and God does the supernatural work of taking that Seed, planting and growing it, and bringing fruit to the ministry.

The results are the Lord's, and if we were gauging success by numbers, both Ezekiel and Jeremiah would be considered complete failures in the ministry.

No one will listen to them, follow their instructions, or heed the Word of God from their mouths.

But that is not their problem or what is gauging their success.

Obedience determines their success.

Christians are responsible for giving out God's Word and letting God do the rest.

## Verse 12...

12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place!" 13 I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise. 14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me. 15 Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.

Now you remember that the Word of the Lord was like honey as Ezekiel devoured it.

But now, we see the prophet experiencing the same thing John did: bitterness.

He realizes these people would continue to experience God's heavy hand because their hearts were hard.



Their hard hearts were leading them to more judgment even while in captivity.

With Ezekiel, we saw that he was first called into the ministry, then anointed as the Power of God's Spirit came upon him... and then equipped for the ministry as he came and sat where the captives sat.

In ministry, simply sitting where other people are helps us understand the people we minister to.

So often, when we only deal with people from a distance, we can become detached from their lives, and it is easier to judge them and be insensitive.

We judge them without even understanding the challenging path they have had to walk in this life.

But it would change our attitude if we could sit with someone, momentarily put ourselves in their shoes, and understand their lives.

I know there were co-workers I could not stand being around; they were filthy and angry, and I did not want to be around them more than I had to.

When I clocked off, I was done...

But Jess would come around the job site, and she would say, “Why don’t you invite so and so over for dinner tonight?”

And I would fight her, but she would always win...

It was fascinating how just sitting down with someone over a meal allows them to open up... and you start to understand why they are the way they are.

It is interesting that when we take the time to sit with people, we often find compassion for them rather than being upset with them.

Being in another person’s place is important to catch their feelings, fears, worries...

As Ezekiel sat there with the people, he understood them, and that was the beginning of ministering with compassion.

He sat there for seven days, in silence, and then we read in verse 16...

### **Ezekiel Is a Watchman**

16 Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 17 "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:

Understand here, in Ezekiel's days, all the ancient cities were surrounded by and protected by stone walls.

These walls served many purposes.

They kept out wild beasts and criminals.

They were a protective barrier when foreign armies would invade.

They also projected prosperity as well as security.

They even gave the city's inhabitants a critical vantage point from which to view their borders.

Each city would have watchmen posted up on the top of the walls.

They watched for danger and signaled if the city needed to prepare itself for any threat.

If the watchman had been faithful to sound the alarm when he saw the danger and the people within the walls refused to heed the warning, the outcome and consequences would not have fallen on the watchman; he would have done his job.

He was not held accountable for the people's negligence.

But if he failed in his duty to sound the alarm, if he fell asleep or was distracted somehow, and he did not blow the trumpet and the city was attacked, then the bloodshed would be his responsibility.

The blood would be on his hands.

Verse 18 now...

18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 19 Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked

way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Ezekiel was called to be a spiritual watchman on the wall, God's lookout.

And the same rules applied to him.

If he saw the people in their wickedness and saw that they were on a reckless road heading toward danger but did not say anything, the blood would be on his hands.

Confrontation is difficult... I have never liked it...

When Pastor Ray ordained me to be a pastor there in Lake Havasu, he gave me a gift: a picture of a watchman sleeping on the wall with these warning verses.

I was hoping for something more encouraging, but I still have that picture on my wall, as it reminds me of the seriousness of my calling.

It is fitting that Pastor Ray gave me that picture because confrontation is one thing he drilled into my training there.

Right off the bat, he taught me to handle things quickly and honestly.

I was teaching a Home Fellowship for him at another family's home.

It was Super Bowl Sunday coming up the next week, and the host of the Home Fellowship decided to have a Super Bowl Party with the group that gathered there.

And in the middle of the planning, one of the guys says, "I'll bring the bucket of Coronas."

I called Pastor Ray that night and told him about this guy wanting to bring beer to our home fellowship. Pastor Ray needed to call and tell him it was not a good idea.

Pastor Ray said, "Well, I am not going to call him because you need to."

I did not want to; it would be uncomfortable, and I thought it would be better if the pastor did it.

But Pastor Ray insisted and told me I needed to learn how to handle these situations.

So I called the guy and told him how we had a lot of new believers at our home fellowship, and it just would not be a good witness for us to have alcohol at a function that the Church sanctioned... I told him we wanted him there but to leave the bucket of beer at home.

He was very cool about it but said, "No problem, but I cannot watch football without beer so that I will stay home."

But it was a lesson, and I learned that as watchmen, sometimes we have to do the hard things, say the hard stuff, give the warnings, and risk not being liked.

Ezekiel had to go to the people and speak what God told him.

He had to do his duty, and it was up to the receivers of the message whether to take it to heart or not.

Verse 20...

20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you

did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.  
21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

Here, the watchman is responsible for the wicked and the righteous person.

We must call the sinners to repent and come to Jesus for salvation.

We also must warn the righteous man who stumbles.

The same principle applies here... If the watchman is faithful to give the warning, he will save the person from danger and his own soul from judgment.

But if he fails to give the warning, he puts himself and those he calls to speak to in danger.

I wonder if there are those God calls you to warn, preach to, and give the Gospel to...

Family, Friends, Co-workers...



God has been pressing on your heart for some time...

In this text, we see that we are responsible for doing what God calls us to do..., but the outcome is not up to us...

You may risk your reputation and your position in life... but you are responsible to those God has called you to reach.

We have a job to do... our mission is to reach people for Christ.

This requires us, as watchmen and watchwomen, to speak out at times and communicate the dangers of a person's life choices.

DL Moody once approached a man on the street and asked him, "Sir, are you a Christian?" The man snapped back, "You need to mind your own business!" Moody responded, "Sir, this is my business."<sup>3</sup>

This application goes beyond just reaching people for Jesus...

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sandyadams.org/sermon/ezekiel-4-7/>

We are to make disciples, and sometimes, for people to grow, we need to share hard truths about their walk with them.

We have a responsibility to sound the alarm...

Verse 22...

22 Then the hand of the Lord was upon me there, and He said to me, "Arise, go out into the plain, and there I shall talk with you."

23 So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of the Lord stood there, like the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. 24 Then the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and spoke with me and said to me: "Go, shut yourself inside your house. 25 And you, O son of man, surely they will put ropes on you and bind you with them, so that you cannot go out among them. 26 I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and not be one to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house. 27 But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them,

'Thus says the Lord God.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel sees in the plain the same vision that he saw by the River Chebar.

God's throne is once again before him, and he is so overwhelmed that he falls on his face.

God's Glory will appear to the prophet repeatedly throughout his writings.

It seems he almost lived in God's Glory.

Paul described the Christian life as one lived **2 Cor. 3:18 from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

The Holy Spirit gives us glimpses of this Glory.

We see here the Spirit sets Ezekiel once again on his feet.

How often has the Holy Spirit picked us up and set us on our feet...

He surely helps us to stand in this life.

We see here that Ezekiel will be made unable to speak. There are also times in the Old Testament when the absence of the prophet and the Word of God was a sign of God's judgment.

They knew they were in big trouble when God stopped talking to His people.

I remember growing up, sometimes my father's silence was more tormenting than him just yelling at me.

His silence often spoke louder than his lectures.

Ezekiel begins his ministry in dramatic silence as God ties him up and makes him mute.

His tongue sticks to the roof of his mouth.

This was a sign to the Jewish people that they were in big trouble.

Ezekiel was serving as an object lesson here.

Ultimately, God says he will open the prophet's mouth and speak to the people.

In chapter 4, Ezekiel is called to deliver another picture to the people.

Look at verse 1 now...

### **The Siege of Jerusalem Portrayed**

4:1 "You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem. 2 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.

The Babylonians wrote on clay tablets as archeologists have found many examples.

They were about 12 inches by 12 inches.

Ezekiel is commanded to take on these clay tablets and carve the city of Jerusalem on their surface.

And he is commanded to illustrate a siege against it.

God was using this picture to warn that He was about to use Babylon to lay siege to the Holy City.

Remember, at this time, the false prophets were telling the people that peace would come... They were the “name and claim it” crowd, the positive thinkers...

Don't worry, Everything will be fine.

But God's prophets were saying the opposite.

By this time, the Babylonians had already invaded twice, and even with this, the false prophets were saying that the exile would be brief and that deliverance was coming soon.

God used Ezekiel's clay picture here to illustrate that one final siege would occur and the city would be utterly destroyed this time.

Babylon would be home to the Jews for Seventy Years.

No matter how many positive thoughts were given, this would not be a quick thing at all.

Verse 3...

3 Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.

This iron plate illustrated the impenetrable barrier between the people and God.

Jerusalem will come under siege, and the people will cry out to God, but He will be behind this iron barrier. Sin is like that iron barrier as it cuts off a person from God.

It prohibits our prayers from reaching God and stops the blessings from reaching us.

The only cure is repentance, confessing those sins... Then healing and restoration come.

So, Ezekiel is commanded now to another demonstration...

Verse 4...

4 "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. 5 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. 6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your 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.

So, we see the sacrifice of being God's minister.

Ezekiel is called to lie down on his side for a duration for each of the Kingdoms... for Israel and Judah.

He is called to dramatize God's judgments on both nations, a day for each year of judgment.

390 days on his left side and another 40 days for the coming judgment on Judah.

Verse 7...

7 "Therefore you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem; your arm shall be uncovered, and you shall prophesy against it. 8 And surely I will restrain you so that you cannot turn from one side to another till you have ended the days of your siege.

He could not roll over until he finished the required time for both sides.

I cannot even imagine the backache after this.



The Lord Himself says He will restrain the prophet because I imagine it would be difficult for him to accomplish this alone.

I could not get up again after laying down that long on one side.

We see here again that obedience can be costly.

We can get antsy when God calls us to remain in a particular place, situation, or even relationship.

Sometimes, we are called to stay, even when it is uncomfortable.

Maybe your job, marriage, friendship, or Church is being tested. Things have become strained, and the easy thing would be to leave, move, or go...

But God has called you to stick it out...

God is saying... "Stay on your side."

Please understand something: you don't see what God has in store for you... Your obedience allows God to work and move on your behalf.

If lying down on his side was insufficient, God lays an even heavier burden on his servant...

Verse 9...

9 "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. 10 And your food which you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; from time to time you shall eat it. 11 You shall also drink water by measure, one-sixth of a hin; from time to time you shall drink. 12 And you shall eat it as barley cakes; and bake it using fuel of human waste in their sight."

He is limited to eating wheat, barley, beans, lentils, and the like, which are the types of food rationing that cities required if they were under siege.

He was only given meager portions as well.

He is commanded to eat barely cakes cooked over human waste.

When a city is under siege, fuel is limited, so they must burn feces.

Ezekiel is forced to use it as a preference here to picture the siege that would come upon Jerusalem.

Verse 13...

13 Then the Lord said, "So shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, where I will drive them."

14 So I said, "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."

15 Then He said to me, "See, I am giving you cow dung instead of human waste, and you shall prepare your bread over it."

Remember here that Ezekiel was a Hebrew priest before he was a prophet and lived a lifestyle of cleanliness according to the Levitical Law.

He diligently kept the Law and the dietary code from his youth.

The Law was clear about human waste...

Deut. 23:12-13 “Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out; 13 and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.”

This was sanitary and protected the camp from disease.

God is asking Ezekiel to violate the Law, so he was confused...

So, God ultimately allows him to use cow manure.

Verse 16...

16 Moreover He said to me, "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, 17 that they may lack bread and water, and be dismayed with one another, and waste away because of their iniquity.

Rather than teaching His people how to observe the Law, God teaches them how to survive a life-or-death crisis.

The Jews were going to go through catastrophic events, and they needed to know how to survive through them.

However, ultimately, the people did not want to hear it; they loved the false prophet's message more.

But Ezekiel was called to deliver a bitter message because the people of God would not heed the warnings.

As Ezekiel is lying on his side, it will illustrate a heavy thing.

Judgment is coming.

In the New Testament, we are told that a sign of the Last Days would be this same kind of rejection of the Truth.

People will want happy messages, such as, "Tell me I am going to be rich, healthy, and well."

“Tell me it is okay that I am in that sinful relationship, that I spend my weekend in the bars, that I can do what I want in life...”

We are commanded in 2 Tim 4:2-5 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

It might be uncomfortable, lonely, and difficult, but we are called to be watchmen and watchwomen today.

May we fulfill our ministries and proclaim the Truth of God's Word?

Amen?

Let's pray...