

SERMON:

Ezekiel 2-3 *(Part 2)*

God's Messenger Appointed:

A Watchman for Israel

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Ezekiel calls us to remember we are exiles and as exiles to remember that God is near and is infinitely concerned for His own glory.

Therefore Ezekiel calls us to refuse the temptation to place our hope in an imagined past or an alluring present but instead to repent and to wait for God's future salvation.

Outline:

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|-------------|--|----------------------|
| I. | God is Present in Exile | Ezekiel 1-3 |
| II. | God is Present to Judge in Judah | Ezekiel 4-24 |
| III. | God is Present to Judge the Nations | Ezekiel 25-32 |
| IV. | God is Present to Save His People | Ezekiel 33-48 |

Outline:

I. God is Present in Exile

A. God's Glory Appears

Ezekiel 1

B. God's Messenger Appointed

Ezekiel 2-3

Proposition: God's message to His people is deadly important, so God's messenger must be fully equipped and deadly earnest to deliver God's message.

- A. God's message is:
- B. God's messenger must be:
- C. God's messenger must speak:
- D. From Ezekiel to Jesus
- E. From Ezekiel to Us

GOD'S MESSAGE IS:

1. Hard – it declares judgment and woe
2. Dangerous – it can lead to death
3. Rejected – those closest often disregard it
4. Pleasant – it brings life and peace
5. Awesome – it ought to overwhelm us

KIDS' QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF GOD'S WORD?

God's Word is hard but good,
deadly but life-giving,
and should be handled with reverence.

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST BE:

1. Filled with God's Spirit
2. Filled with God's Word
3. Willing to sacrifice for God's Word

KIDS' QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF GOD'S MESSENGER?

He is empowered by God's Spirit,
filled with God's Word,
and ready to suffer for God's message.

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

God commands Ezekiel to be His Messenger

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. Clearly (truthfully) – even to those who won't listen

EZEKIEL 2:3-5

³ *And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.⁴ The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.*

Ezekiel was sent to **spea**k God's message **clearly** even if they won't listen

EZEKIEL 3:4

⁴ And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them.

Ezekiel was sent to **spea**k God's message clearly (**exactly**)

Ezekiel was to declare exactly and clearly what **God** had said

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. Clearly (truthfully) – even to those who won't listen
2. Boldly – even to those who reject

EZEKIEL 2:6-7

⁶ *And you, son of man, be not afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions. Be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.*

⁷ *And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.*

Ezekiel was NOT to be afraid of those to which he was sent to speak

He was to keep **speaking** God's message **boldly** even when rejected

EZEKIEL 3:7-9

⁷ *But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me: because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.* ⁸ *Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.* ⁹ *Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house."*

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. Clearly (truthfully) – even to those who won't listen
2. Boldly – even to those who reject
3. Timely – especially to those who need warning

EZEKIEL 3:16-18

¹⁶ And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁷ "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ¹⁸ If 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, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

EZEKIEL 33:4

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, ³ and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴ then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

EZEKIEL 3:16-18

¹⁶ And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁷ "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ¹⁸ If 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, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

EZEKIEL 3:21

²¹ *But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul."*

Ezekiel was to **speak** God's message as a **timely warning** to those in need of warning

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. Clearly (truthfully) – even to those who won't listen
2. Boldly – even to those who reject
3. Timely – especially to those who need warning
4. Single-mindedly – so he won't confuse the message

EZEKIEL 3:24-27

Ezekiel was to **speak** only God's message

*²⁴ But the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and he spoke with me and said to me, "Go, shut yourself within your house.²⁵ And you, O son of man, behold, cords will be placed upon you, and you shall be bound with them, **so that you cannot go out among the people.**²⁶ And I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, **so that you shall be mute** and unable to reprove 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 will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.*

GOD'S MESSENGER MUST SPEAK GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. Clearly (truthfully) – even to those who won't listen
2. Boldly – even to those who reject
3. Timely – especially to those who need warning
4. Single-mindedly – so he won't confuse the message

KIDS' QUESTION:

WHAT MUST GOD'S MESSENGER DO?

God's messenger must clearly speak

God's Word no matter what.

FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS

God's Perfect Messenger

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

1. Was God's ultimate messenger

JOHN 1:14

*¹⁴ And **the Word** **became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

HEBREWS 1:1-2

like Ezekiel



¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

1. Was God's ultimate messenger
2. Was filled with God's Spirit perfectly

LUKE 4:1, 14, 18

*¹ And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness*

*¹⁴ And Jesus returned **in the power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.*

*¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."***

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

1. Was God's ultimate messenger
2. Was filled with God's Spirit perfectly
3. Spoke God's message clearly, truthfully, and boldly

JOHN 8:39-40

³⁹ ... Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

1. Was God's ultimate messenger
2. Was filled with God's Spirit perfectly
3. Spoke God's message clearly, truthfully, and boldly
4. Spoke God's message single-mindedly

JOHN 8:28

*²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but **speak just as the Father taught me.**"*

JOHN 12:49-50

⁴⁹ *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--- what to say and what to speak.* ⁵⁰ *And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."*

JOHN 5:19

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

- 1. Was God's ultimate messenger**
- 2. Was filled with God's Spirit perfectly**
- 3. Spoke God's message clearly, truthfully, and boldly**
- 4. Spoke God's message single-mindedly**
- 5. Sacrificed ultimately for God's Word**

LUKE 11:47-52

⁴⁷ Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed.⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs.⁴⁹ Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,⁵⁰ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.

LUKE 13:33-34

³³ Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

JESUS AS GOD'S PERFECT MESSENGER:

- 1. Was God's ultimate messenger**
- 2. Was filled with God's Spirit perfectly**
- 3. Spoke God's message clearly, truthfully, and boldly**
- 4. Spoke God's message single-mindedly**
- 5. Sacrificed ultimately for God's Word**

KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHO IS GOD'S PERFECT
MESSENGER?**

Jesus is God's perfect messenger.

FROM EZEKIEL TO US

Applications

APPLICATIONS:

1. We need to consider God's message to Israel

EZEKIEL 2:3-4

*³ And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you **to the people of Israel,** to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants also are **impudent and stubborn:** I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'*

EZEKIEL 3:27

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 will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.

HEBREWS 3:7-11

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' ¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

HEBREWS 3:12-15

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

APPLICATIONS:

1. We need to consider God's message to Israel
2. We are all God's messengers (in different ways)

I PETER 2:9-11

*⁹ But you are a **chosen race**, **a royal priesthood**, **a holy nation**, **a people for his own possession**, **that you may proclaim** the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*¹¹ Beloved, I urge you **as sojourners and exiles** to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. We need to consider God's message to Israel**
- 2. We are all God's messengers (in different ways)**
- 3. So we must handle God's Word with careful reverence**

HEBREWS 4:12

¹² *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

HEBREWS 2:1

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. We need to consider God's message to Israel**
- 2. We are all God's messengers (in different ways)**
- 3. So we must handle God's Word with careful reverence**
- 4. So we must be ready to suffer for God's Word**

II TIMOTHY 1:8-10

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

II TIMOTHY 2:3

³ *Share in suffering* as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

II TIMOTHY 4:3-5

*³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, **endure suffering**, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

MATTHEW 10:26-28

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. We need to consider God's message to Israel**
- 2. We are all God's messengers (in different ways)**
- 3. So we must handle God's Word with careful reverence**
- 4. So we must be ready to suffer for God's Word**
- 5. So we must declare it boldly and truthfully**

II TIMOTHY 4:1-4

¹*I charge you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:² *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*³ *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

COLOSSIANS 3:16

¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

I PETER 3:14-16

*¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** **to anyone who asks you** for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. We need to consider God's message to Israel**
- 2. We are all God's messengers (in different ways)**
- 3. So we must handle God's Word with careful reverence**
- 4. So we must be ready to suffer for God's Word**
- 5. So we must declare it boldly and truthfully**

KIDS' QUESTION:

WHAT DOES EZEKIEL'S COMMISSION MEAN FOR US?

We must listen to God's messengers
and we must live as God's messengers.

Proposition: God's message to His people is deadly important, so God's messenger must be fully equipped and deadly earnest to deliver God's message.

- A. God's message is:
- B. God's messenger must be:
- C. God's messenger must speak:
- D. From Ezekiel to Jesus
- E. From Ezekiel to Us