

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Book of Ezekiel*

*Message 4*

*September 13, 2015*



Ezekiel by Guy Rowe 1994-1968

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

# O Why Not Tonight?

Elizabeth Reed, 1842

J. Calvin Bushey

$\text{♩} = 117$

1. O do not let the Word de - part, And close thine eyes a - gainst the  
 2. To - mor - row's sun may nev - er rise To bless thy long de - lud - ed  
 3. Our Lord in pi - ty lin - gers still, And wilt thou thus His love re -  
 4. Our bless - ed Lord re - fus - es none Who would to Him their souls u -

*Refrain*

light; Poor sin - ner, hard - en not your heart, Be saved, O to - night.  
 - sight; This is the time, O then be wise, Be saved, O to - night. O  
 - quite? Re - nounce at once thy stub - born will, Be saved, O to - night. O  
 - nite; Be - lieve on Him, the work is done, Be saved, O to - night.

why not to - night? O why not to - night? Wilt  
 why not to-night? why not to-night? Why not to-night? why not to-night? Wilt

thou be saved? Then why not to - night?  
 thou be saved, wilt thou be saved? Then why not, O why not to - night?

# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Four

**GOD GIVES EZEKIEL HIS MISSION**

**September 13, 2015**

**Daniel E. Woodhead**

GOD SPEAKS TO EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 2:1-10

*<sup>1</sup>And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak with thee. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet; and I heard him that spake unto me. <sup>3</sup>And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to nations that are rebellious, which have rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me even unto this very day. <sup>4</sup>And the children are impudent and stiffhearted: I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah. <sup>5</sup>And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house), yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. <sup>6</sup>And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house. <sup>7</sup>And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; for they are most rebellious.*

*<sup>8</sup>But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that which I give thee. <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was put forth unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; <sup>10</sup>and he spread it before me: and it was written within and without; and there were written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe (ASV, 1901).*

GOD BEGINS TO SPEAK TO EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 2:1-10

*<sup>1</sup>And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak with thee (ASV, 1901).*

Ezekiel had prostrated himself in adoration and awe of the sight of the outline of the human form of God and His majestic throne upon the Cherubim under the glorious rakeeah. As God is preparing to speak to Ezekiel He calls him a Son of Man. In Hebrew this is *ben adam* and God only uses it only in reference to His select prophets and of Himself as Messiah. It is used in Daniel 8:17 when God spoke to him with some end time prophesies. When He (God) entered the Messiah our Lord Jesus and became a man as in Adam the first man He called Himself The Son of Man. It is used ninety-three times in

this book. Paul told us of one aspect of the relationship of the Lord Jesus to humanity when he compared Him to Adam.

I Corinthians 15:45

*<sup>45</sup> And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit (KJV).*

Daniel also saw the Lord Jesus which he recorded in Daniel 7:13 his vision of the Son of Man coming to the Ancient of Days. Because Ezekiel and Daniel both saw God as the shape or form of a human man it is clear that God is identifying with His creatures through the loving term “Son of Man.”

God commanded him to stand to receive the message of his call and commission, which is almost exactly what an angel (probably Gabriel) spoke to Daniel in response to his request for understanding. When God commanded Ezekiel to stand it was an indication of His acceptance of Ezekiel as a worthy prophet and intention of calling *that man* into service.

GOD CAUSES EZEKIEL TO STAND

Ezekiel 2:2

*<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet; and I heard him that spake unto me (ASV, 1901).*

Just as God’s Spirit entered Zechariah to speak directly to his inner being so also did Ezekiel say “*Spirit entered into me when he spake unto me.*” God who is spirit completely bypassed the normal communication mediums of hearing and speaking to communicate Spirit to spirit, God to man. The Spirit, which directed the movements of the “living creatures” through the “wheels” of the chariot, was now in him. God supplied the inner strengthening which enabled Ezekiel to carry out God’s commands. Empowered and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Ezekiel rose to his feet to receive the Word of God. There is an intimate connection between the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Now that the visions had prepared his soul and he responded in humility he receives the direct word from God. Without knowing before hand of Ezekiel’s response of fearful reverence shown by him prostrating himself God would not have chosen him for service. Consider how God addressed this issue to Isaiah.

Isaiah 57:15

*<sup>15</sup>For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite (ASV, 1901).*

The humble and contrite are prepared for God to *revive* them. Ezekiel prostrates himself and God then raises him to stand (*revive*) and receive the Word with its commands. Ezekiel had been prepared by the magnificent visions, in which he responded with humility and contriteness. Now God proceeds from the somewhat vague awesome vision to definite direct speech. For us today we receive our messages from capable God chosen

teachers or directly from the Bible, which is His complete final revelation to the world. God will speak in the illumination of our soul by the Holy Spirit, which makes His ancient eternal truth stand out in a new light, or helps us to make a fresh application of it to new circumstances. By his Spirit God does thus speak directly to every listening soul, though the words are those of familiar truth. The Holy Spirit is a teacher (Luke 12:11-12; John 14:26; I John 2:27 etc.) and an illuminator. The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds to reveal *the deep things of God* (I Corinthians 2:10). Since the completion of the Biblical canon God has provided His revelation in the written Word. In this regard the Holy Spirit functions as our “illuminator.” He illuminates our mind to understand the *things of God*, which no man can know, but by the Spirit only (I Corinthians 2:14, 15, 3:1-2, 3:3-4).

## GOD GIVES EZEKIEL HIS MISSION

### Ezekiel 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup>*And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to nations that are rebellious, which have rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me even unto this very day. <sup>4</sup>And the children are impudent and stiffhearted: I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, <sup>5</sup>And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house), yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them (ASV, 1901).*

God immediately tells Ezekiel that he will be giving God’s message to the people of the Nation Israel. The Lord describes them as *rebellious, which have rebelled against me*. The term rebellious occurs sixteen times in this book and gives a strong message to Ezekiel and us today of God’s displeasure with sin and rebellion especially of those with whom He has chosen for a special relationship with Him (Doctrine of Election). Considering that twice the Babylonians had already invaded the Jews, the exiles just considered this a temporary setback and they would soon be back in Jerusalem resuming the same activities they left. They like their countrymen back in Jerusalem refused to admit their sin or accept the fact that further judgment was coming upon this disobedient nation. God explained the root of the problem was their hard hearts toward Him. God who is longsuffering declares one more chance to them as He says this sin has been occurring because of the leaders and previous generations (*fathers*) of the Nation Israel. He spoke through Isaiah describing the fact that the righteous people will be left alone but the wicked will be judged (Isaiah 3:10). They openly defied God being open about their sin much like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Nobody would be immune, even the women. They would be judged too.

### Isaiah 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>*Moreover Jehovah said, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with outstretched necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet; <sup>17</sup>therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and Jehovah will lay bare their secret parts. <sup>18</sup>In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, and the cauls, and the crescents; <sup>19</sup>the pendants, and the bracelets, and the mufflers; <sup>20</sup>the headtires, and the ankle chains, and the sashes, and the perfume-boxes, and the amulets; <sup>21</sup>the rings, and the nose-jewels; <sup>22</sup>the festival robes, and the mantles, and the shawls, and the satchels; <sup>23</sup>the hand-mirrors,*

*and the fine linen, and the turbans, and the veils. <sup>24</sup>And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet spices there shall be rottenness; and instead of a girdle, a rope; and instead of well set hair, baldness; and instead of a robe, a girding of sackcloth; branding instead of beauty (ASV 1901).*

Ezekiel's job would be to declare God's Word to the people. The response was entirely up to them but there would be judgment for failure to repent and turn away from their sins. People may throw off their allegiance and responsibility to God, but they cannot destroy His rightful authority over them. The leaders were primarily the cause because they were charged with bringing God's Word to the people and they failed. Just as today many seminaries and churches have left the authority of God and developed a man-centered rational theology instead of basing teaching on the revealed truth of God's Word. God is making it quite clear that Ezekiel's role to the people would be communicating the Word of God to the people. They would recognize that he was sent from God regardless of whether they responded positively with repentance and restored morality or they would turn from God's Word and continue on their destructive path of sinful behavior. The essence of this command centers on the people who would clearly recognize that a true prophet of God was in their midst who offered them a choice, obey God or continue to sin.

#### GOD ASSURES EZEKIEL OF HIS SECURITY

Ezekiel 2:6

*<sup>6</sup>And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house, <sup>7</sup>And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; for they are most rebellious (ASV, 1901).*

God assures Ezekiel of his security in Him. God is sending him to these wicked people and assures him that even though those people are rebellious he must not be afraid of them. He describes them with strong clear illustrations of their ugly unpleasant attitude toward God. He compared the people of Israel to thorns, thistles and scorpions. Ezekiel was being introduced to the response he must expect from them. He would be pierced through on many occasions and stung by their criticism and personal attacks. Some of the attacks would hurt greatly and would hurt for a long time. Therefore, God used in one illustration, the scorpion to remind him of the severity of the expected personal attacks. This type of conduct was consistent with rebellious sinful paganized people. The symptoms of a scorpion sting are consistent with the potential harm the rebellious peoples words would be to Ezekiel if he were not prepared for them. He was God's representative, and must not be intimidated; neither by any threatening words they would cast at him. He must continue faithfully to proclaim God's words "whether they listen or not." Some of the symptoms of scorpion stings are:

1. Immediate and intense, burning pain with the sting mark not always visible.
2. Paraesthesia, an abnormal sensitivity, includes a burning sensation and pins and needles.
3. Hyperaesthesia, an excessive sensitivity of the skin.

4. Ataxia, a lack of muscle coordination with a stiff legged or drunken walking action.
5. Involuntary movements, tremors and muscle weakness.
6. Tachycardia, an increased pulse rate of 100 to 150 bpm.
7. Raised blood pressure
8. Dysarthria, a speech difficulty.<sup>1</sup>

When we are attacked personally for following God and proclaiming His Word we too can expect this response to the truth. We must be prepared so we are not afraid and know what to expect. God has assured us of our salvation, eternity and the blessings He has for us if we continue with proper moral behavior and stay close to Him in word and deed. We can expect the attacks to come and we must be prepared. They are going to get worse as our civilization crumbles in Godless behavior and our country descends into nationalized licentiousness. God will judge us just as severely he did the ancient Israelites and we must be aware of this and tell others regardless of their response. We can't be afraid of their reaction. If God promised the righteous ancient Israelites to be protected we can expect the same because that is consistent of His character.

Isaiah 3:10-11

*<sup>10</sup>Say ye of the righteous, that it shall be well with him; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. <sup>11</sup>Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him; for what his hands have done shall be done unto him (ASV, 1901).*

God has promised not to condemn us if we are in Christ Jesus walking in His Spirit. That is *saved* and following the Lord as closely as possible.

Romans 8:1-9

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup>that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: <sup>7</sup>because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: <sup>8</sup>and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his (ASV, 1901).*

This protection is ultimately our salvation and assurance of eternity not necessarily complete protection while we are on this corrupt sinful dying earth. We have been told that we can expect persecution *because to you it hath been granted in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer in his behalf* (Philippians 1:29). In general by

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/arachnids/scorpions/stings\\_and\\_venoms.htm](http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/arachnids/scorpions/stings_and_venoms.htm) accessed September 12, 2015.

leading a God fearing life we will be kept from most problems in this earth but we must always be aware of the attitude of the haters of God and their attitude toward Him and us. Remember what Jesus said as recorded in John 15:18 *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”* Our eternal promise is what we have to keep in mind as the world turns against us. Jesus said to His disciples, *“<sup>16</sup>Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves; <sup>28</sup>And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:16, 28).*

## EZEKIEL IS NOT TO BE LIKE THE UNBELIEVERS

### Ezekiel 2:8-10

*<sup>8</sup>But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that which I give thee. <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was put forth unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; <sup>10</sup>and he spread it before me: and it was written within and without; and there were written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe (ASV, 1901).*

Ezekiel is told to obey God and not become like the rebellious Jews. In confirmation of his ordination God puts forth His hand with a scroll, which was written on both sides and rolled up. Scrolls were papyrus or leather sheets specially prepared for writing. They were sewn or glued together, inscribed, then rolled. This was the standard form for books prior to the beginning of the second century when the codex or leaf book came into wide use because of the amount of material in the New Testament.

Ezekiel is commanded to eat the scroll, which is God’s Word. This is the practical action that Ezekiel must perform to get highly motivated for a ministry of constant resistance coupled with stinging rejection. Take God’s Word deeply into his spirit and soul and retain it. By taking in the truth of God’s Word Ezekiel was getting the strongest preparation possible against the slanderous assaults that would be directed toward him as he carried out his assigned ministry activities. He was certain of the truth and origin of God’s Word. It would be a sword for him in the great spiritual battle he was facing. He had to submit to the will of God indicated by eating what God was offering to him. There is an important observation to make here regarding the importance that God’s Word played in Ezekiel’s ministry. The responsibility of the communicator of God’s Word is limited to the faithful delivery of God’s Word not his own opinions. The delivery must be faithful. God will judge the teacher’s in a stronger manner.

### James 3:1

*Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment (ASV, 1901).*

NEXT MESSAGE: THE RESULT OF EZEKIEL EATING GOD’S WORD

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

E-mail [info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com](mailto:info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com) Toll Free 877-706-2479