

# Ezekiel's Calling

Read Ezekiel 2:1 – 3:4

Throughout Old Testament times, God sent a succession of prophets to share His wisdom with His people. True prophets didn't speak from their own wisdom and authority. Instead, they came faithfully saying, "This is what the Lord says."

As an example, look at today's scripture passage and read about Ezekiel's call and preparation for God's service. Especially notice these things:

1. Throughout the book of Ezekiel, God addresses him as "Son of man". It could also be translated "Son of Adam" or "Son of mankind", or perhaps simply, "Human being". This became the humble way Jesus referred to Himself during His earthly ministry. And for us, realizing our humble relationship with the transcendent God is the first step in our preparation for divine service. (2:1)
2. The Holy Spirit enabled Ezekiel to hear God's word and obey it. He is still our enabling. (2:2)
3. God gave Ezekiel no guarantee of "success" in human terms. Success was not his calling, and it is not ours. Like Ezekiel, our calling is to speak and live God's truth, whether our witness is received or not. (2:3-5)
4. Since Sovereign God was sending Ezekiel, he should not fear the words or actions of the people to whom he was sent, no matter how threatening. If we fear Almighty God, we have no reason to fear anything else. (2:6-7)
5. God often told Ezekiel to perform symbolic actions in order to act out God's truth. Here he is told to literally eat God's word, in preparation for speaking it. For us as well, we are not prepared to speak God's word until we take it into our inner being, consume it, digest it, and let it become our strength for living. (2:8 – 3:4)

As you prepare to receive and share God's wisdom, consider how God prepared Ezekiel.