

## 15Ezekiel 2:1–3:15 • “You Shall Speak My Words”

- Background This passage concludes the first section of Ezekiel (Ch 1–3:15) which details Ezekiel’s call and commission by God.
- 2v1 Similarity to Moses and burning bush: Moses first saw then heard. “Son of Man” – 93x in Ezekiel (only other OT use is in Daniel). Literally “human one” – emphasizes Ez’s humanity cf God’s deity.
- 2v2 Remember in OT the Spirit only comes upon people temporarily. Contrast to NT where the Spirit indwells believers permanently.
- 2v3-5 “Nation” is plural in original text (goyim). Usually ref to Gentiles. Here could refer to Judah / Israel. Or God’s people / Gentiles.  
Ezekiel being sent out as a prophet and people will know him as such. Why? Because his short-term prophecies will be fulfilled.
- 2v6-7 God encourages Ezekiel in his calling: focus on obedience > evidence! Servants of God need to focus on our devotion > others’ reception!
- 2v8-3v3 Did he literally eat a scroll? Or poetical language for absorbing info? Either way same outcome: God imparting information (cf Rev 10). Content was full of lamentation (future of Judah) but also sweet? Sweet because that’s what God’s Word is (Ps 19:10; Ps 119:103). Written on both sides = message complete as given! No room for Ezekiel to add content or commentary!
- 3v4-7 God again instructs Ez to speak His message but also warns him to expect opposition / indifference. Note that God says cross-cultural ministry is easier than reaching hard-hearted countrymen. God tells Ezekiel to be as stubborn to obey as audience is to ignore.
- v10-11 God: “Keep hearing and receiving as I keep speaking.” Ez not called to a single dramatic encounter; called to relationship. Important to be sensitive to God’s voice TODAY.
- v22-25 What’s above the cherubim and wheels?  
Firmament = dome (evokes idea of the heavens?)  
Cherubim carrying platform that from bottom looks like crystal (ice)  
Even from bottom looks awesome (cf angels / God) – evokes awe.  
Cherubs wings supporting platform.

Eagles faces looking inward; able to coordinate.  
Sound: great waters; voice of God, noise of army (cf Rev 1:15)

v26-28      On top of platform is throne (chariot because mobile?)  
              “In appearance” – so majestic Ezekiel struggles to describe  
              Ps 18:10 @ “God rode upon a cherub and flew...”  
              More amber: holiness (purifying)  
              Rainbow: universality (God of all lands / peoples); promise-keeping?

Application      Why is God appearing to Ezekiel in this place at this time?  
                      Even before we get to substance of message, we see three things:  
                      Greatness of God (God greater than Judah’s problems)  
                      Holiness of God (God purifying not destroying)  
                      Presence of God (God is close, even in exile)

For us tonight, the same three things are true!