

# EZEKIEL 3 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> Moreover He said to me, Son of man, consume what you find; consume this scroll,

and go speak **to the house of Israel** / isn't that phrase interesting? How come we never think Ezekiel is to look for a building of brick or stone? It is the context, right? In Hebrew, **bayit** is first used when **the Lord said to Noah, Come, you and all your house into the Ark** -- **Genesis 7:1**... and nobody has the impression Noah started ripping down his chimney and kitchen, bedroom and bath... and hauling it off to where the Ark was situated. So, when we read **the house of the Lord**... why do we always assume we are directed to look for a building, especially in the future time of Messiah?



Early in his book, Isaiah tells us about when many will say: **Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the household of the God of Jacob**... and He will teach us of his ways -- **Isaiah 2:3**. Isaiah is talking about people; not buildings. Later he says more about this place: there will be a TENT – a temporary shelter **for shade in the daytime from the heat of the day; and from the storm and rain** -- **Isaiah 4:6**.

Isn't the Bible interesting when we read it? Zechariah repeatedly tells us Messiah will build something in that same place **when He comes** again -- **Zech. 6:12,13**. Isaiah says; a **TENT**. But back to Ezekiel...

and go speak **to the household of Israel** = **the household of the God of Jacob**.

<sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to consume that scroll.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, Son of man, cause your belly to eat, and fill your guts / clearly... Son of man, swallow and digest this scroll I give you.

When I consumed it; **it tasted sweet as honey in my mouth** / so we know it was the Word of the LORD... because Ezekiel had the exact same response to it as Jeremiah and the great king David and all the others – it's delicious!

<sup>4</sup> And He said to me, Son of man, go **to the household of Israel**,

and speak **My words to them** / which is the assignment of any good and faithful prophet or pastor... they always speak the Word of God; not their genius mumbo jumbo or creative hocus pocus.

<sup>5</sup> For it is not sent to people with a foreign speech and a difficult language, but **to the house of Israel** / consistently the highest educated group of people in the world still today... the Word is in their vernacular, it is no kabalistic or cryptic dialect;

<sup>6</sup> It is not to people of a foreign / strange speech or of a difficult language, whose words you cannot understand.

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**I send you to them, they will listen to you** / apparently, even the Lord GOD is hopeful that Ezekiel's skillful delivery will grab their attention.

**7 But the household of Israel will not listen to you; for they will not listen to Me** / in other words, God is realistic enough to let Ezekiel know who He has been dealing with all these years... and that the prophet might not expect any better results:

**for all the household of Israel are impudent and hardhearted** / like immature children -- defiant and stubborn... who most likely will have a tantrum when they hear what Ezekiel is sent to say.

**8 Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads** / Ezekiel's temperament will be sufficient to match whoever he encounters and butts head with.

**9 Like a hard stone harder than flint, I made your forehead: do not fear them, do not be dismayed at their scowls, for they are a rebellious household.**

**10 Moreover, He said to me, Son of man,**

**take to heart all My words** that I speak to you, and hear with your ears / in other words, Ezekiel, I've given you both a heart and ears, use them and treasure what I tell you!

**11 Go to them of the captivity** / those in exile,

**to the children of your people, and speak to them; and say to them,**

**The Lord GOD says this** / x, y & z; it seems we don't really hear in detail what Ezekiel told them...

**whether they listen, whether they refuse to stop.**

**12 Then the Spirit picked me up**

**and I heard a great rumbling sound** / like an earthquake... **behind me, saying,**

**Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place.**

**13 I heard also the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another,**

**and the noise of the wheels over against them, and a noise of a great earthquake** / again in this horror... the prophet is given a unique experience as he is transported to some place in preparation for him to deal with the obstinate, spoiled brats of Israel.

**14 So the Spirit picked me up, and carried me away,**

**and I went away hot and bitter in my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.**

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<sup>15</sup> Then I came to the exiled who dwell at Tel-abib by the river of Chebar, and there I sat among them, and remained there seven days / a town south of Babylon, from this name we get the name of the modern capital Tel Aviv.

<sup>16</sup> And at the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made you a watchman / a security guard... one who stays awake and alert

to the household of Israel:

when you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

<sup>18</sup> When I tell the wrong, you must surely die; and you do not warn him, if you say nothing to warn the wrong from his wrong way in order to save his life;

then that wrong man will die for his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand / God would hold the watchman responsible for his death.

<sup>19</sup> Yet if you do warn the wrong, and he turns not from his wrongness, nor from his wrong way,

then he will die in his iniquity; but you have saved yourself.

<sup>20</sup> Again, when a right man turns from his rightness to commit iniquity, and I put a stumbling-block before him, then he will die: since you have not given him warning;

he will die in his sin, and any rightness which he has done will not be remembered;

but I will hold you responsible for his death.

<sup>21</sup> Yet if you warn a right man, that the right should not sin... and he does not sin, he will surely live,

since he is warned; and you have saved yourself.

<sup>22</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me; and He said to me,

Arise, go out to the plain, there... I will talk with you.

<sup>23</sup> Then I arose, and went to the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there,

like the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar:

and I fell on my face.

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<sup>24</sup> Then **the Spirit entered me, and set me** on my feet,

**and spoke with me, and said to me** / the Spirit of the Lord doesn't leave us hanging in confusion; listen and do what He says,

**Go, shut yourself inside your house.**

<sup>25</sup> O son of man, behold, you will be tied and bound, so you cannot go out among them:

<sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, so you cannot speak, and you will not censure them: for they are a rebellious house.

<sup>27</sup> **But** when I speak to you,

**I will open your mouth,**

**and you will say to them** / in other words, the LORD will do everything leading up to the grand moment; then it would be Ezekiel's time to speak:

**The Lord GOD says this** / x, y & z;

**He who hears, let him hear;**

**he who refuses to stop, let him refuse:**

**for they are a rebellious household.** Ezekiel learns, either they will listen or they will refuse to listen... and the Lord GOD will know how to sort out who is friend or foe.

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