

**Pastor Paul Bawden  
 Grace Evangelical Church  
 Sunday, May 2, 2010, Communion Sunday  
 "God's Glory In His Word"  
 Ezekiel 2&3**

**Someone has said that the Bible is not a book  
 that man  
 Would write if he Could,  
 OR  
 Could write if he Would.**

**How true.  
 The Bible has 66 books,  
 39 books in the Old Testament  
 and 27 books in the New Testament.  
 They all comprise one total accurate and dependable account!**

**For Consider This!!**

**The Bible was written over a period of some 1600 years covering 40 generations with 40 different authors from all walks of life.**

Moses - a political leader trained in the University of Egypt  
 Joshua - a military leader  
 David - a shepherd who became a king  
 Solomon - a king  
 Daniel - a prime minister  
 Ezekiel - a priest  
 Peter - a fisherman  
 Matthew - a tax collector  
 Luke - a physician  
 Paul - scholar/rabbi, missionary and church planter

**The Bible was written on the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa.**

**The Bible was written from different places.**

Moses - in the wilderness  
 David - in military conflict  
 Jeremiah - in a dungeon  
 Ezekiel - in exile in Babylon in his house  
 Luke - while traveling  
 John - on the isle of Patmos

**The Bible was written in three different languages.**

Hebrew - the Old Testament.  
 Aramaic, the language of near East before Alexander the Great.  
 Greek - the New Testament and the common language of Jesus time.

**The Bible was written in different times and moods.**

In war and peace  
 In joy and despair

**The circulation of the Bible is greater than any other book.**

Josh McDowell in his book, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* (Here's Life Publisher, San Bernardino, CA. 1979, p. 13), writes that "The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book. There have been more copies produced of its entirety and more portions and selections than any other book in

history. Some will argue that in a designated month or year more of a certain book was sold. However, over all there is absolutely no book that reaches or even begins to compare to the circulation of the Scriptures."

**The Bible has survived all the tests of time and the criticisms of men.**

Josh McDowell adds in Evidence That Demands A Verdict (page 19), "Being written on material that perishes, having to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press, did not diminish its style, correctness nor existence. The Bible, compared with other ancient writings, has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature combined."

**The Bible has a specific theme from beginning to end.**

**Someone is coming. Someone has come, and Someone is coming again. That SOMEONE, of course, is Jesus Christ.**

**The Bible is progressive in its content.**

That is the Bible was given to different writers over that period of 1600 years and finally collected into one complete BOOK.

**The Bible is certainly the most amazing Book, not of man's design, but of the biblical God's creation so that we can have an eternal and life-changing Word from HIM.**

**The book of Ezekiel, which we started considering a couple of Sundays ago, is a part of that progressive revelation. It fits into biblical history around 593 B.C after the second deportation of Israel to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar.**

**As we consider Ezekiel 2 & 3 today we see what was involved in the biblical God giving His word to Ezekiel, the priest (1:3) yes, prophet of God to Israel(2:5) and a watchman over Israel (3:17), who ministered to those Israelite exiles who were living in Babylon by the River Chebar.**

**NOTE, THEN, WHAT IS INVOLVED IN GOD GIVING HIS WORD TO EZEKIEL AND THEN TO US TODAY.**

**I. The biblical God's part (In giving His Word).**

**1. He was the source of what would be given.**

Who took the initiative in Ezekiel 1, 2, 3, really the rest of the book of Ezekiel? Of course, the biblical God.

"The hand of the LORD (the self-existent ONE) came upon Ezekiel" (1:3).

"He said to me. . ." (2:1).

"Then He said to me. . . ." (3:1).

"Now you, son of man . . . ." (4:1).

"As for you, son of man . . . ." (5:1)

"The word of the LORD came to me saying. . . ." (6:1).

Where did the Word of God we have in the Bible come from? Certainly from the Biblical God. He is the author of the Word of God through the Holy Spirit's influence and direction.

(II Peter 1:21). "For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

David acknowledged in II Samuel 23:2, "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue."

II Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is inspired (God breathed, from His very heart) and is profitable . . . .

To have the Biblical God as the source of His Word to us in the Bible, then He must be different from all other gods that exist in the world today, as well as man himself thinking that he is god. For the biblical God to be different from other gods, He must be eternal, personal, have all power, all knowledge, be all presence, be holy and display love, and be able to communicate with those He has created.

Of course the biblical God is just that. He is the eternal, personal, all knowing, all powerful, all present, holy, just, and loving God who involves Himself with His people who have rebelled against Him so He can through His Son Jesus Christ provide them His forgiveness and eternal life as they accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

## **2.He gave the revelation of what He wanted the individual to record.**

Revelation means that God disclosed, made known, the word from Himself along with His movements in history that he wanted recorded by the different writers in the different time periods in which they lived. I Corinthians 2:10 tells that God revealed them through the Spirit.

But there was another step involved – the human instrument.

## **3.He provided the inspiration for the one receiving His revelation.**

Inspiration is not that individuals got some sort of a inner sensation that motivates a person to do something spectacular.

Rather, by inspiration is meant that in some miraculous way God the Holy Spirit superintended the various writers of the Bible, of Scripture, keeping in tack their personalities, so that the words recorded were what God wanted. This meant that the words that were written were accurate and reliable, whether a quote from God directly or the recording of history, poetry, or doctrine.

That's why we mentioned II Peter 1:21 a few minutes ago, that the prophecy of God didn't come by the will of men, but as men were moved (like the wind in the sail of the ship moves it across the water) by the Holy Spirit.

Since the Word of God recorded was from the eternal and personal God, who had all power and grace, the Word of God was eternal, had eternal power to convict, to bring salvation, to provide an eternal foundation and direction for the believer in Christ, while providing God's world-view in a world that wouldn't accept Him. Indeed, the Word of God spoke directly to the spiritual makeup of the individual (Hebrews 4:12).

## **How did this all work for Ezekiel, the priest, prophet, and watchman of Israel in exile in Babylon around 593 B.C?**

### **II. The writer's part (In receiving God's Word).**

#### **1.Faith – Ezekiel 1.**

Ezekiel was certainly a believer in the LORD in the Old Testament sense. At the same time, when the LORD came to him while he was in exile in Babylon, he had to respond in faith to the LORD'S vision of His glory to Him. What did Ezekiel do after God gave Him a vision of His glory.

#### **2.Worshipping – Ezekiel 1:28.**

He fell on his face in worship before the LORD of glory.

#### **3.Listening – Ezekiel 2.**

Ezekiel, then, in chapter 2 listened to God's call on his life.

God had chosen him to go to the people of Israel who were very rebellious against God. They had gone after other gods, broken the first commandment and the others as well. God wanted Ezekiel to tell them the truth about their rebelliousness whether or not they would listen (2:1-5). **They would know that a prophet had been among them.**

Ezekiel was not to fear the people or their words, even though it would be like being among thorns and thistles, and sitting on scorpions (2:6).

Regardless, Ezekiel was to speak God's word to His people (2:7).

Ezekiel was to listen to the Lord and not become rebellious like those to whom he would minister. He was to open His mouth and eat what God was giving him (2:8).

Ezekiel saw a hand extended to him with a scroll in it. When the scroll was spread out before Ezekiel, it had writing on the front and back of it, indicating God had much to say to the people of Israel (2:9-10).

#### **4. Digesting – Ezekiel 3:1-22.**

Ezekiel ate the scroll that God gave him (3:1-3). It was sweet as honey to his mouth. John had a similar experience in Revelation 10:8-11.

God urges Ezekiel now to speak His words to the people of Israel with whom he is very familiar (3:4-7).

The people will not be willing to listen. Regardless, Ezekiel's stamina and strength will be as unyielding as those who hear his message are unyielding (3:8-9).

Ezekiel is urged again to go to the exiles of Israel whether or not they listen and say, "Thus says the Lord God." (3:10-11).

#### **As he listens, Ezekiel is again given the vision of the glory of God he saw in Ezekiel 1 (3:12-13). God wants Ezekiel to know that His presence has not left him and He will always be with him.**

Ezekiel was seven days working through God's vision of God's glory, God's call and commission of his life to serve HIM (3:14-15).

God appeared to Ezekiel again and told him that he was a watchman of Israel to tell them that if they didn't repent of their sin when warned, they were responsible for their actions. Each person was responsible before God for his response to Ezekiel's warning (3:16-21)

#### **5. Obeying – Ezekiel 3:22-27.**

Ezekiel responded to the Lord's call and commission by following His directions. As he did so, he saw again the glory of the Lord as he did by the river Chebar. Again Ezekiel worshipped (3:22-23).

Did you notice since God's first revelation of His glory to Ezekiel in chapter 1, He has now showed His glory, His presence to Ezekiel TWO more times.

Knowing how rough it would be in his ministry. God did not want Ezekiel to forget that He was always with Him, and His glory was at stake in his ministry. Ezekiel was a representative of the glory of God in the midst of a people who had substituted the glory of man for the glory of God.

Then God told Ezekiel he would put restrictions on his ministry (3:24-27). Still God's Spirit would empower him. This would take place, evidently in Ezekiel's house.

Ezekiel obeyed the Lord, doing all that the Lord told him to do. He was about to begin God's ministry for him to the people of Israel in exile.

#### **6. Recording – Ezekiel 8:1.**

When did Ezekiel record in writing all that God showed him, and told him to do while he was in exile with his people Israel? We are not told. But it may have been while he was ministering during the 22 years he ministered as prophet to and watchman over the people of Israel in exile. Perhaps some of his recording was done after his ministry. His writing of his prophecy was probably done in his house (Ezekiel 8:1).

This is where the revelation and inspiration of God came together as the Holy Spirit of God used Ezekiel to record for us what we have in our Bibles today.

How does this all apply to us today some 2000 years after the time Ezekiel recorded God's word in written form?

### III. Our part today (In encountering God's Word).

#### 1. Faith.

##### (1) The Bible is completely dependable and accurate.

**Psalms 119:89** – Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

**Isaiah 40:8** – The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

**I Peter 1:24-25** – For, all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass, the grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the LORD endures forever.

##### (2) The Bible points out our need of a Savior.

**Jeremiah 17:9** – The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick.

**Mark 7:21-23** – Out of the heart of men proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders adulteries, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness (words of our Lord).

**Romans 3:23** – All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

##### (3) The Bible tells us that Jesus is that Savior.

Through accepting Christ as stated in the Bible, we come into God's forever family.

**John 14:6** - Jesus said that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one can come to the Father except through HIM (John 14:6).

**John 1:12** - John told us that as many as received Him to them he gave the right to become the children of God (John 1:12).

**Romans 5:1** - Therefore having been declared righteous by faith (faith in Jesus), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

##### (4) The Bible tells us that each person needs to admit to the Lord that he or she has sinned before God and ask Jesus into one's life to be one's Savior.

**Romans 6:23** – The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 10:13** – Whoever will call on the name of the Lord shall be saved, that is have God's forgiveness and eternal life.

#### 2. Reading/Listening.

##### (1) For the believer the Bible becomes his or her spiritual food.

The Bible is that which speaks to our spirits (mind, will, and emotion) as followers of Christ, for it is spiritual food!! (Hebrews tells us that we should be not just be taking in the milk of the word, but the solid food of the word of God. 5:12-14).

##### (2) Both Old and New Testaments are the believer's spiritual food.

The things that were written in earlier times were written for our instruction that through perseverance and encouragement (cheering on) of the Scriptures, we might have hope (**Romans 15:3-4**).

All Scripture is inspired of God (God's breath – comes from God's very being, His heart), and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

#### 3. Worshipping.

**(1) The word of God, His mirror,** points us to Christ, the Lord of glory so that we worship Him, giving him honor, adoration, and praise in our personal lives, our family lives, our church life, in our daily routines and jobs, even at school. Worship is a life-style (**cf. II Corinthians 3:18**).

**(2) It's through the written Word of God** we see the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, and worship Him in our lives. Yes, worshipping Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **For it's in the Word of God, the Bible, that we see the glory of God displayed specifically in Jesus and in the written Word of God.**

As we worship the living lord through the written word of God, we should be. . . .

#### 4. Digesting/memorizing.

**(1) For the believer the Bible provides a biblical direction for his individual life, family life, church life, life at work, in the neighborhood, and at school.**

**Psalm 119:11** – Your word have I hid, treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against you.”

**Psalm 1:2** – But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and his law he meditates day and night.”

**Psalm 119:8- 10** – The precepts of the LORD are right rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

## **(2) The life controlled by the Spirit of God will demonstrate God’s life alive in the believer.**

A life of joy and thanksgiving, submission to the Lord, harmony in the husband/wife relationship. Children will obey their parents, and employees and employers will have a positive God-honoring relationship (Ephesians 5:18-6:9).

**(3) For the believer the Bible also provides a biblical world view** of all the happenings in the world, whether, local, state, national, or international events. From Genesis to Revelation, we see the movements of God at work in history, and then how He will culminate everything in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Psalmist says that God’s Word makes one wiser than one’s enemies. God’s Word provides more insight than one’s teachers.

## **5. Obeying.**

Ezekiel was used to record God’s Word that we have in the book of Ezekiel. Since the Word of God is already recorded for us, it is just ours to obey the Lord concerning what He tells us in His Word, and please Him in all that we think, do, and say.

### **(1) Ezekiel worshipped, listened, digested, and then he obeyed God’s Word.**

He loved the Lord and showed his love for his Lord by obeying Him.

### **(2) That’s why Jesus said that if you love me, you will keep my commandments or my word (John 14:23).**

**(3) That’s why in Paul’s letters particularly there are lots of imperatives in the present tense.** “Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.” “Keep walking in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.”

God knows that unless we continually obey Him, our lives will soon be doing what we want and displeasing Him.

## **It has been suggested as we read God’s Word we should ask the following questions.**

Let me use these questions from a passage this week I read in I Samuel 13 where the new King Saul was waiting for Samuel the prophet to come before Saul went into battle. Samuel was supposed to come in seven days, but he didn’t arrive when Saul thought that he should have. Instead of continuing to wait for Samuel, King Saul went ahead and offered sacrifices to the Lord, which he was not suppose to do, for that was Samuel’s job as prophet and priest. Right after that, Samuel arrived. Finding out what had happened, Samuel told Saul that he had acted foolishly and would not be the king over Israel forever, but God would seek out a man after His own heart.

**First question: “What is the sin to forsake or avoid in this section of Scripture?”** Saul became impatient. He should have waited on Samuel, which was really waiting on the Lord. He ran ahead of the Lord. The Psalmist tells us to “Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD” (Psalm 27:14).

**Second Question: “Is there a promise to claim?”** The promise here is that God is always faithful to His Word. His timing is always right on schedule. Galatians 4:4 – “In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son.” At just the right time.

**Third Question: “Is there an example to follow?”** Certainly not to be impatient like Saul was, but to be patient like the Lord that even when He was ridiculed and depreciated, He keep on doing God’s will, committing His situation to the Lord (I Peter 2:23).

**Fourth Question: "Is there a command to obey?"** Do what the Lord says. In the power of the Spirit exhibit patience, longsuffering (Galatians 5:22-23), and perseverance in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:3-4). When I don't show patience, I will probably get into a circumstance I could have avoided if I would have been patient in the Lord.

**Fifth Question: "Is there a stumbling block to avoid?"** Obviously here it is to not become impatient with the Lord or with people, and to wait for God to work out His will for one's good and His glory.

**Yes, we see the Glory of God, His very presence in the Word of God, the Bible. As we obey God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit, the very glory of God is seen in us and His name is glorified. How GREAT IS THAT!!!**

**Archibald Rutledge wrote that one day he met a man whose dog had just been killed in a forest fire. Heartbroken, the man explained to Rutledge how it happened. Because he worked out-of-doors, he often took his dog with him. That morning, he left the animal in a clearing and gave him a command to stay and watch his lunch bucket while he went into the forest. His faithful friend understood, for that's exactly what he did. Then a fire started in the woods, and soon the blaze spread to the spot where the dog had been left. But he didn't move. He stayed right where he was, in perfect obedience to his master's word. With tearful eyes, the dog's owner said, "I always had to be careful what I told him to do, because I knew he would do it."**

**How grateful we should be to our Lord that He always tells us in His word to do the right thing. Yes, and sad to say, some have been martyred for obeying the LORD.**

**May we be in God's Word this week, so that our lives immediately obey the Lord showing forth His presence at work in and through us to His glory!!**