

God had appointed Ezekiel as the watchman on the wall. He was to speak God's Word, His truth, to the people whether they heeded it or not.

Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" We live in a world that calls evil good. We, like Ezekiel, need to be the watchman on the wall, warning of the judgment that's coming to those who have been deceived by Satan's lies and turned their back on God's truth.

Let your voice be heard, and be prepared for the world to lash out at those who dare to speak the truth. Those who walk in the dark will try to extinguish the light because they don't want their evil deeds exposed. What a timely message for us today.

DAY 1

When you read the first chapter of Ezekiel, it makes you want to move on to the next book. Ezekiel has a series of seven visions and the first one in chapter one is a doozy! This first chapter can be overwhelming, but with some careful work, we will decipher the heart of the message.

1. Begin each day in prayer. When we go to God's Word, it is important to ask Him through the Holy Spirit to open your eyes of understanding and lead you into His truth. His desire is that you would be sanctified (set apart from the world) through truth, truth found in His Word alone.
2. Use your Observation Worksheets to Observe Chapter 1. As you read through this chapter you are going to look for key words and mark them. Key words are repeated words that are important to the meaning and context of the passage. You want to mark each word in a different color and in a different way so they stand out at a quick glance. I would suggest using a large index card to write the word and your marking so that you can be consistent throughout the book. There is no right or wrong way to mark them, the important thing is to mark. It will make the Scripture come alive to you. I will give you some suggestions to get you started with the first set of words. I am no artist, so I always look for easy ways to mark a word. So get your colored pencils and let's dig in. Here are the words for chapter 1.

- a. *Ezekiel* (name, pronouns, synonyms like *priest, I, my, his*, etc.) - underline in blue

- b. *Time references* - simple blue clock
 - c. *Geographical references* (include *expanse*) - double underline in green
 - d. *Visions* - orange thought bubble
 - e. *The word of the Lord came* - underlined in purple with purple triangle over Lord
 - f. *Living beings* - may want to mark each being in a distinctive color box
 - g. *Wheels* - black circle with spokes
 - h. *Throne* - red seat
 - i. *The figure with the appearance of a man* (pronouns) - orange cloud
 - j. *Glory of the Lord* - yellow cloud around the whole phrase
 - k. *The spirit* - purple dove if referring to Holy Spirit, purple cloud for other references
3. Now let's summarize each paragraph in the space below and in the margins of your observation worksheets.
- a. 1:1-3
 - b. 1:4-14
 - c. 1:15-21
 - d. 1:22-25
 - e. 1:26-28
4. Where was Ezekiel? Use the map at the end of this lesson to locate the places mentioned.
5. What questions do you still have about this chapter? Is there something that caught your attention? Tomorrow we will take a close look at this chapter.

DAY 2

1. Now we begin examining Ezekiel's vision. Read letters "a" through "e" below and familiarize yourself with the information you are trying to find. After that, read straight through Ezekiel 1. Then record the requested information.

a. List what the text tells you about each of the living beings.

b. Record all that you learn about the wheels.

c. What do you learn about the throne?

d. What does this tell you about the figure with the appearance of a man?

e. Record what you learn about the likeness of the glory of the Lord in verse 28.

2. Some of you will love this next assignment, but some of you may be tempted to skip this step. Please don't! It will be worth the time and effort! You are going to do your best (remember that I am not an artist either) to sketch as best you can Ezekiel's vision. Include the living beings, the wheels, their relationship with the expanse and the throne. Give it your best effort. The process that you go through to put this down on paper in the form of a drawing, will help your mind sort through the details. You can draw the vision in the space below or on a separate piece of paper. You may want to look at this in future lessons.

3. One last assignment for today. What is the main theme (subject, idea) of Ezekiel chapter 1? Record this on your observation worksheets on the line at the beginning of the chapter as well as on the “*At a Glance Chart*” and the end of this lesson.

We will dig a little deeper into this vision tomorrow. Little by little you will begin to see what God was revealing to Ezekiel.

DAY 3

1. Let’s take one last look at Ezekiel’s first chapter. As we examine this chapter, you want to ask the 5 W’s and H questions - Who? What? Where? When? Why? And How? You may not come up with answers to all of them, but at least be on the look out for them. Answer questions like, “When did this take place?” “Who was the vision given to?” “What do we know about this man?” “Where was he when all this took place?” “Why was he there?” “How did he get there?” Do you have the idea? Good! Let’s see what you can discover for yourself. Give this some time and thought.

2. Ezekiel was a priest of Israel so what is he doing in the land of the Chaldeans (Babylon)? Who was Jehoiachin and why was he in exile? Read II Kings 23:28-25:12 to answer those questions. Record the main events that lead up to this exile. There is a timeline of the kings and prophets at the end of this lesson. It may be helpful to follow the events on that timeline.

3. Did you notice that two different time references were given in Ezekiel 1:1-2? Let's see why there seems to be a discrepancy here. Remember, that the Bible never contradicts itself. If it seems as though it does, it is because we don't fully understand what is being said. It is our job to search the word until we understand the difference.
 - a. Look at the timeline. What year was the fifth year of Jehoiachin's exile?

 - b. Now take that date and go back 30 years. Nothing stands out as to what may have happened that year. What date would it be? Why mention the thirtieth year? It wasn't put there for no reason.

 - c. Here are two Scripture that may offer some insight as to why this may be mentioned. Look them both up and record how each may apply. Numbers 3:5-12; 4:1-4 and II Kings 22:3-13

DAY 4

1. Time to move on. Complete your observation worksheets on Ezekiel 2:1-3:11. There are a couple of words that you can add to your key word marking card from Day 1.
 - a. *rebellious, rebelled* (blue arrow pointing downward)
 - b. *listen* (I draw a brown ear)
 - c. *lamentations* (blue teardrop)
 - d. *woe* (black raincloud)
2. Summarize each paragraph in the area below and in the side margins of your observation worksheets.
 - a. 2:1-7
 - b. 2:8-10
 - c. 3:1-3
 - d. 3:4-11
3. Record a chapter theme or title on your observation worksheets for chapter 2.
4. How do chapters two and three tie together?
5. What is God asking Ezekiel to do for Him? List the main points.

- a. In whatever reference books or sites you may have at your disposal, look up the meaning of Ezekiel's name. How may that be a comfort in light of what God is asking him to do and the description of the people to whom he is called to minister? (The people are called stubborn and obstinate - Ezekiel 2:4 - literally means stiff-faced and hard-hearted. In Ezekiel 3:7 it means hard forehead and stiff heart.)

- b. If you were Ezekiel, how would you feel about God's calling on your life? If we are follower's of Jesus Christ, aren't we called to speak to the people that God puts in our lives?

- c. Read II Timothy 4:1-5. List what you are to do according to these verses.

- d. How faithful are you to share God's word with others?

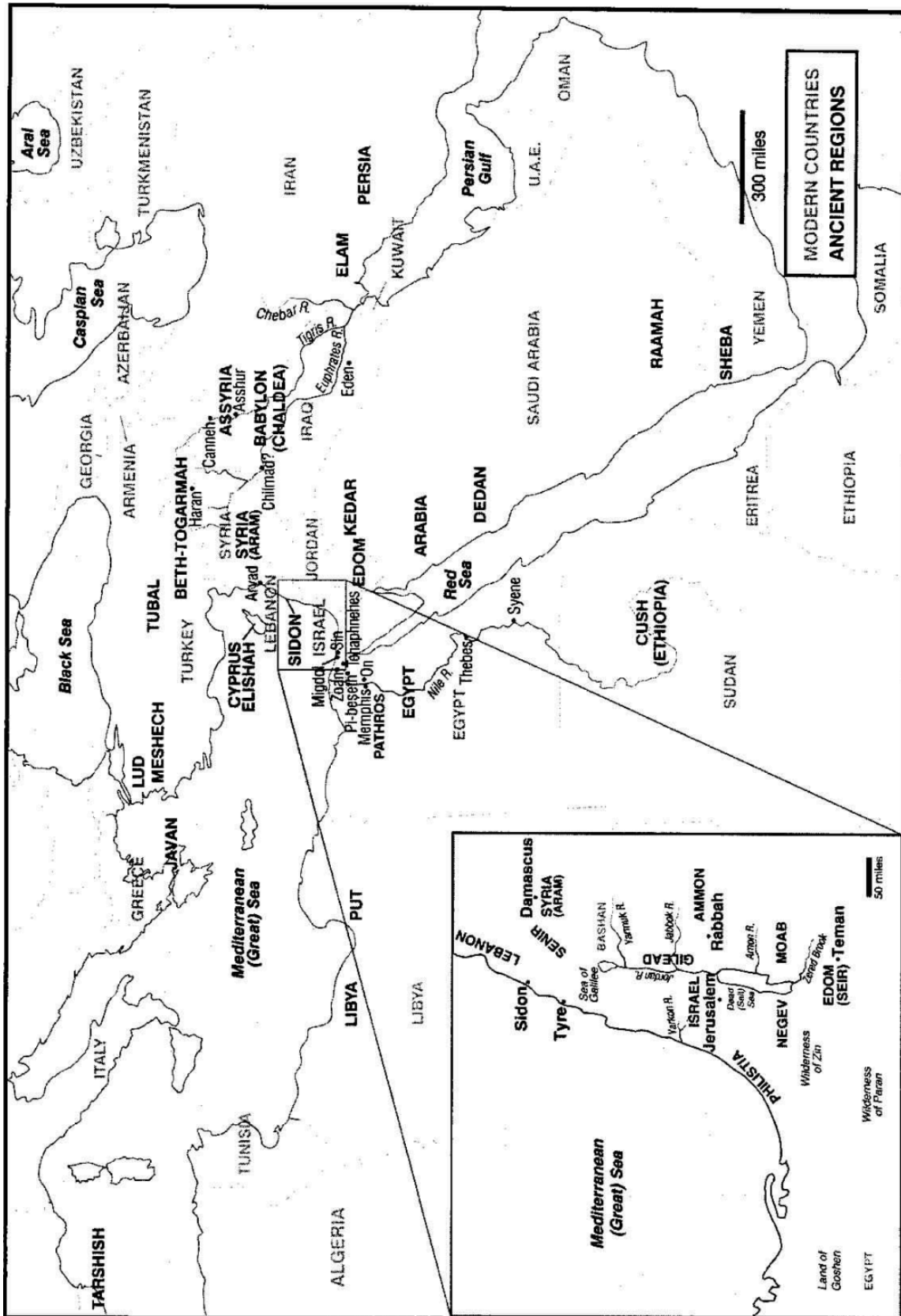
- e. Pray that you would have the heart and courage to be a watchman on the wall.

DAY 5

1. Today you are going to finish your observation worksheets on Ezekiel 3. Add the following words to your marking card/book mark.
 - a. Wicked, wickedness (I use a black X)
 - b. Sin/iniquity (I use a black broken heart)
 - c. Die (I make a black tombstone)
 - d. Righteous (I use a blue upward arrow)
 - e. House of Israel (I use a green Star of David - one triangle pointed up overlaid by a triangle pointed down.)
 - f. There may be other key words just in this section. If you see them, mark them however you want.
 - g. Mark contrasts (not like this, but like that)
 - h. Don't forget to watch for time and geographical markings.
2. Record themes for each paragraph here and on your worksheets.
 - a. 3:12-15
 - b. 3:16-21
 - c. 3:22-27
3. Put a chapter theme or title at the beginning of chapter 3 in your observation worksheets.
4. Summarize Ezekiel's responsibilities as a watchman.

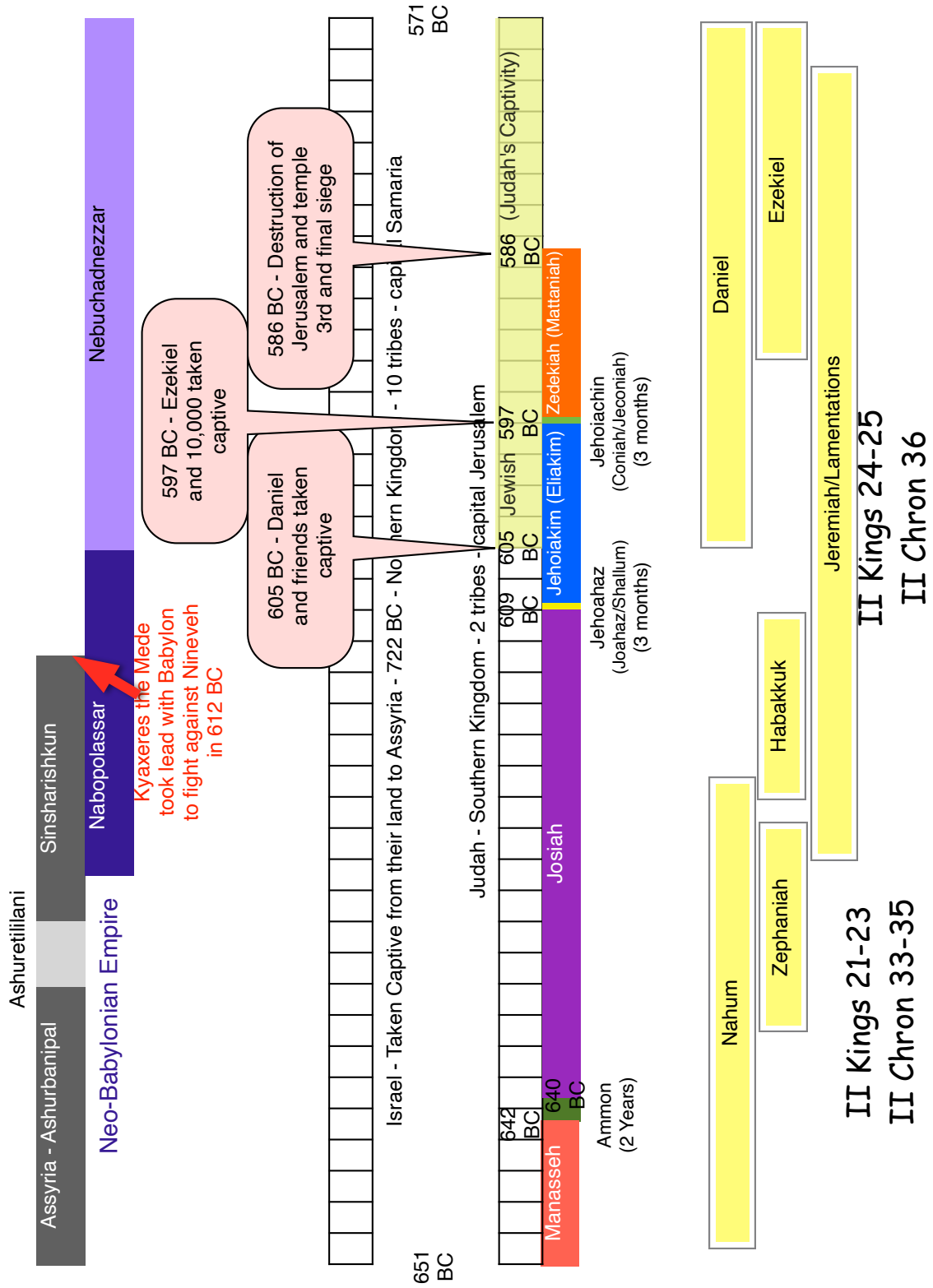
5. Can these responsibilities be rightly placed on or applied to true believers of Jesus Christ? Read Acts 20:16-27. Record what you think about that question and why.

6. If you have time and would like to see what commentaries have to say on the first three chapters of Ezekiel, you may do that at this time.



Ezekiel

Lesson 1, Chapters 1-3



Ezekiel

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Theme of Ezekiel:

Segments Divisions

Author:		Chapter Themes
Date:		1
Purpose:		2
		3
		4
		5
		6
Key Words:		7
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Segments Divisions

		Chapter Themes
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