

# EXILE AND RETURN Lesson 1

## FIRST DAY

Read the Introduction Notes

## SECOND DAY:

### Read Ezekiel 1:1-3

#### **The Living Creatures and the Glory of the LORD**

[Eze 1:1] In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

[2] On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin— [3] the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.

#### **Question 3a Additional reading**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 24:8-16;

#### **Jehoiachin King of Judah**

[8] Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem. [9] He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father had done.

[10] At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it, [11] and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it. [12] Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him.

In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. [13] As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD. [14] He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the

craftsmen and artisans—a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.

[15] Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother, his wives, his officials and the leading men of the land. [16] The king of Babylon also deported to Babylon the entire force of seven thousand fighting men, strong and fit for war, and a thousand craftsmen and artisans.

**Psalm 137;** [137:1] By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

[2] There on the poplars  
we hung our harps,  
[3] for there our captors asked us for songs,  
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

[4] How can we sing the songs of the LORD  
while in a foreign land? 5] If I forget you, O  
Jerusalem, may my right hand forget [its skill].

[6] May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not consider Jerusalem  
my highest joy.

[7] Remember, O LORD, what the Edomites did  
on the day Jerusalem fell.

“Tear it down,” they cried,  
“tear it down to its foundations!”

[8] O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction,  
happy is he who repays you  
for what you have done to us—  
[9] he who seizes your infants  
and dashes them against the rocks.

## THIRD Day:

### Read Ezekiel 1:4-21

[4] I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal,

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[5] and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, [6] but each of them had four faces and four wings. [7] Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. [8] Under their wings on their four sides they had the hands of a man. All four of them had faces and wings, [9] and their wings touched one another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.

[10] Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. [11] Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out upward; each had two wings, one touching the wing of another creature on either side, and two wings covering its body. [12] Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. [13] The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. [14] The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.

[15] As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. [16] This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel. [17] As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not turn about as the creatures went. [18] Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around. [19] When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose. [20] Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. [21] When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

## **FOURTH DAY:**

### **Read Ezekiel 1:22-2:2**

[22] Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome. [23] Under the expanse their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. [24] When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

[25] Then there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. [26] Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. [27] I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. [28] Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

### **Ezekiel 2**

#### **Ezekiel's Call**

[2:1] He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." [2] As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

#### **Question 11a**

**Ezekiel 2:1;** [2:1] He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you."

#### **Question 11b**

**Ezekiel 2:2;** [2] As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

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## Question 11c

**Psalm 24:3-5;** [3] Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

[4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

[5] He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.

**Philippians 3:9;** [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

## Question 11d

**2 Corinthians 9:8;** [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**Philippians 2:13; 4:13;** [13] for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

[13] I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. [7] You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. [8] But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.”

[9] Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, [10] which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

## Question 14 See also

**Matthew 28:18-20;** [18] Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:13;** [13] And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

## SIXTH DAY:

### Review Ezekiel 1-2

## FIFTH DAY

### Read Ezekiel 2:3-10

[3] He said: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. [4] The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ [5] And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them. [6] And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they

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