# 1. What do you say to people whose God has abandoned them? Ezekiel 1:1-3

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#### A. Introduction

## B. The Principal Characters in the Drama Underlying the Book of Ezekiel

## 1. What do verses 1-3 say about God?

YHWH, the God of Israel, operates as the divine Director and script writer for the drama to follow.

- a. He takes the initiative in revealing himself to humankind.
- b. He communicates verbally with human beings.
- c. He exercises control over his chosen agent.

#### 2. What do verses 1-3 say about Ezekiel?

Ezekiel functions as the protagonist in the drama that follows.

- a. His Name and Position
- b. The Timing of His First Vision
- c. His Role in the Divine Scheme

## 3. What do verses 1-3 say about the audience?

Jewish exiles in Babylon function as the protagonists in the drama that follows.

- a. The Social and Economic Condition of the Audience
- b. The Spiritual Crisis Gripping the Audience

#### The Four Pillars of Israel's Theological Orthodoxy

- (1) YHWH, the divine patron of Israel, has entered into an eternal covenant with his people.
- (2) YHWH, the divine patron of Israel, has given the nation the land of Canaan as their eternal territorial possession.



- (3) YHWH, the divine patron of Israel, has chosen Jerusalem as his eternal residence, from which he exercises sovereignty over his people.
- (4) YHWH, the divine patron of Israel, has promised the Davidic house eternal title to and occupancy of the throne of Israel.

### C. Application

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.