

In the Service of the King of Kings: Ezekiel's Ordination Commission

Ezekiel 1:28ab–3:11

Veritas Adult Community

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Introduction

The Structure of the Ezekiel 1:28ab–3:11

The Preamble to Ezekiel's Commissioning (1:28b–2:2)

The Lord's First Commissioning Speech (2:3–7)

The Prophet's Visionary Swallowing of the Scroll (2:8–3:3)

The Lord's Second Commissioning Speech (3:3–11)

A. Ezekiel: An Unlikely Candidate for Divine Service

Twelve questions about Ezekiel at the time of his call

B. Nature of Ezekiel's Commission

1. While he was on his face he heard the sound of someone's voice, saying, "Human, stand that I may speak with you."
2. The opening words, "I am sending you" is used regularly of envoys (*mal'akîm*), sent out by a higher authority to deliver a message to a third party on the sender's behalf.
3. The LORD authorizes Ezekiel to use what is commonly recognized as the "messenger citation formula": "I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus has the Lord YHWH declared. . . .'"
4. The LORD predicts that when Ezekiel's prophecies are fulfilled his people will know "that a prophet has been in their midst."

C. The Identity and Character of Ezekiel's Audience

D. The Divine Resources for the Prophet

1. The LORD promises to put a hedge around the prophet for the difficult road ahead.
2. The LORD promises to provide Ezekiel with the script for his utterances.
3. The LORD promised to harden Ezekiel's forehead.

Application

1. Whoever would serve as a messenger of God must recognize that the calling comes from God alone.
2. Whoever would serve as God's messenger must first have a clear vision of the one who sends him/her.
3. Whoever would serve as God's messenger must be empowered by the Spirit of God.
4. Whoever would serve as the messenger of God must be inspired by the message of God.
5. Whoever would serve as the messenger of God will be divinely equipped commensurate with the calling.
6. Whoever would serve as the messenger of God must recognize that the calling is not to success but to faithfulness.