

**The Mission Assigned to the Prophet of God:
Devour, Digest and Proclaim God's Word
Ezekiel 02:08—03:15**

6. *He must devour*

and digest God's Word

- a. The warning: He was not to rebel against God's Word as others had done
- b. The specific scroll (portion) of God's Word that Ezekiel was to digest: It concerned God's judgment
 - 1) Was written on both sides: Filled with Israel's sins and God's displeasure
 - 2) Pronounced coming doom
- c. The unmistakable charge to the prophet
 - 1) To eat and digest God's Word of coming judgment
 - 2) To go — share the message
- d. The obedience of the prophet: He ate the scroll (book) of judgment
- e. The charge reemphasized: He was to eat, digest God's Word of judgment
- f. The obedience reemphasized: He ate the scroll and it was satisfying — sweet as honey

8 “But you, son of man,
listen to what I say to you.
Do not rebel like that rebellious people;
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.

CHAPTER 3

1 And he said to me,
“Son of man, eat what is before you,
eat this scroll;
then go and speak to the people of Israel.”

2 So I opened my mouth,
and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 Then he said to me,
“Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you
and fill your stomach with it.”
So I ate it, and it tasted
as sweet as honey in my mouth.

7. He must proclaim God's Word

a. Proclaim God's Word
as His special messenger

1) God's mission for Ezekiel:
Go to the Israelites

- He was not being sent to a foreign land
- He and God's message would have been accepted by foreigners

2) God's warning to Ezekiel:
The people will not listen because they reject God's Word — due to their hard hearts

3) God's preparation of Ezekiel

- Would make him steadfast
- Would make his mind and determination as hard as stone

4) God's encouragement to Ezekiel: To be courageous, fearless

b. Proclaim God's Word
as His burdened spokesman

1) The charge given to Ezekiel

- To learn and do God's Word
- To go and share God's Word with the exiles:
Whether they listened or not

4 He then said to me:

“Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them.

5 You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel —

6 not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

7 But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate.

8 But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are.

9 I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people.”

10 And he said to me,
“Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you.

11 Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.”

2) The assurance of God's call given to Ezekiel

- He was lifted up in a vision by God's Spirit
- He heard loud praises being sung to God
- He heard the wings of the living beings brushing against each other and the rumbling sound of the wheels

- He was transported away by the Spirit

3) The reaction of Ezekiel to God's call

- He was disturbed
- He was gripped by God

4) The burden of the people laid upon Ezekiel's heart:
Taken to Tel Abib

- He sat among the exiles for seven days
- He was overwhelmed

12 Then the Spirit lifted me up,
and I heard behind me a loud rumbling sound
as the glory of the LORD rose
from the place where it was standing.

13 It was the sound of the wings
of the living creatures
brushing against each other
and the sound of the wheels beside them,
a loud rumbling sound.

14 The Spirit then lifted me up
and took me away,
and I went in bitterness
and in the anger of my spirit,
with the strong hand of the LORD on me.

15 I came to the exiles who lived at Tel Aviv
near the Kebar River.
And there, where they were living,
I sat among them for seven days —
deeply distressed.