

Sunday School Lesson, November 16, 2025

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Lesson—The Medium is the Message¹

**Text: Ezekiel 3:10-11;
24:15-24, 27**

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Recount Ezekiel's ministry among the Babylonian exiles.
2. Draw inspiration from Ezekiel's obedience in the face of opposition.
3. Testify to God's purposes through truth telling and sacrifice.

Why This Lesson Matters: What is one of the greatest sacrifices that one could make? God took Ezekiel's beloved wife and instructed him not to mourn her death as an enactment of God's message to the Exiles who were not to mourn the calamities that were about to befall their families in Jerusalem.

Key Verse: *Moreover he said unto me, son of man, all my words that i shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and here with thine ears. (Ezekiel 3:10, KJV)*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. The Call to Faithful Witness (Ezekiel 3:10-11)
3. Personal Loss as a Prophetic Message (Ezekiel 24:15-24)
4. The Power of Silent Witness (v. 27)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Ezekiel served as both prophet and priest during one of the most turbulent periods in Jewish history. Writing from exile in Babylon, he addressed a community stripped of their homeland, identity, and the traditional ways of worship. Today's text comes from 2 distinct moments in Ezekiel's ministry. The first establishes his prophetic calling, while the second reveals A deeply personal tragedy that God used as a powerful message to his people.

Ezekiel is counted among those who constituted the latter prophets of the Old Testament. The writings of the earlier prophets had begun to take shape more than 1 1/2 centuries earlier, with Amos and Hosea. Their prophecies marked the

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

first signs of the collapse of the sister kingdoms of Israel and Judah in the face of the threat posed by the imperial expansion of Assyria to the West. These later prophets were primarily Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Though the two men were contemporaries, they had markedly different temperaments. Jeremiah was a sensitive and highly poetic spokesman, brought up among a family of priests in the small town of Anathoth. He began his ministry more than 30 years ahead of Ezekiel's. Ezekiel, by contrast, was from a privileged priestly family of Jerusalem but did not begin his active prophetic work until he found himself in Babylonian exile. But both prophets, the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, were a turning point. In exile, Ezekiel prophesied to a people who were frustrated and hoping to return shortly to their homeland. However, that return would not come soon. He lived it, suffered, and prophesied among these same people.

IV. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Ezekiel: A prophet of the Babylonian exile; Son of the priest Buzi (see 1:3). His name means "God strengthens."

V. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Captivity

Hear

Heart

Mourn

Receive

Word

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?) Play

- For many of the people in our Nation Today, it feels like being in exile as in the case such as with the people of Judah. For those of us who are feeling the pain and angst of our current situation, we knew up front and it was almost prophetic the sufferings that we would endure if certain people were allowed in leadership position. Trust God to keep us in the midst of these current frail moments in the history of our nation and know that our deliverance is on the way.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*