

Ezekiel had a vision by the river in Babylon

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Ezekiel had a vision by the river in Babylon.

He saw the "wheel of wheels", rotating unhindered, radiant and free.

He saw four living creatures—each with four faces, bodies like fire, and eyes full.

He saw the dry bones of the valley resurrected, and breath re-entered the bones.

He was lifted up by the Spirit and taken to the unbuilt temple—a clear size, as if it were a blueprint from heaven.

Some called him a prophet, while others said he saw an unbearable truth.

This is what Ezekiel saw and recorded.

This is the God he heard in the darkest night in Israel's history.

Be still and take a deep breath.

Keep the hustle and bustle away.

Enter the vision—the priest who saw the heavens, and he has never been the same.

The priest by the river

Before the vision—before the wheel, the flame, the throne, and the voice—there was a young priest sitting by the river, far from home.

His name was Ezekiel, the son of Bushe, of Aaron's holy son.

From an early age, he was trained in the temple in Jerusalem to serve the Lord with sacrifices, blessings, fragrances, and hymns.

It was the life of the sanctuary - until 597 BC, when everything was overturned.

The Babylonian army destroyed the walls and palaces of Judah. The temple was burned, the golden lamppost collapsed, and the altar was turned to ashes. Ezekiel and his compatriots were taken captive and traveled along the road of exile to the banks of the river Kaiba in Babylon. The sky hung low, the land was unfamiliar, and the air was silent. For the captives, it was not just exile – it was the disintegration of the soul. Because they believed that God dwells in the temple. Now the temple is dusty, the ark is lost, and the incense burning has stopped. They asked with tears in their eyes, "Has God forsaken us?" Ezekiel was also silent for five years. Until the year I was thirty years old, the sky by the river suddenly cracked.

A moment of heaven opening

A gust of wind came from the north—weak at first, then surging like a tsunami. Lightning flashed from the clouds, and flames swirled. It was not the wind of nature, but the breath of God's companionship. Ezekiel had an epiphany: The Lord did not remain in ruined Jerusalem—He was present in Babylon, among the captives. What he saw before his eyes made the language itself tremble.

Living creatures and wheels

Four living creatures appeared, both human-like and superhuman—steady, swift, and fierce. They have four sides:

- The human face symbolizes wisdom;
- the face of the lion symbolizes majesty;
- The face of the cow symbolizes loyalty;
- The eagle's face symbolizes sensitivity.

They are dressed in shining metallic luster, and their feet are like cow hooves, shining like mirrors.

The wings are connected and the sound is like a waterfall.

There are hands under the wings, dexterous and firm.

They are full of eyes—insight but no accusation.

Next to each living creature is the "wheel of wheels":
they intersect with each other without being restricted by direction, and do not need to turn
around when moving;
The edges are covered with eyes, and they run with the spirit.
It is the throne of God's action—the chariot of glory.

A glorious vision

Above the living creature is a crystal-like sky, crystal clear.
On it there was a throne shining like a sapphire.
The image on the throne shines like fire—the upper body is like molten gold, and the lower
body is like flames.
Surrounding it is a rainbow—a sign of the covenant, a mark of mercy.

This is the glory of the Lord, as it was in the tabernacle of meeting and shook Sinai, but now it is
manifested in a foreign land.
Ezekiel fell on the ground and heard a voice say to him:

"Son of man, stand up, and I will send you."
The Holy Spirit entered him and made him stand again.

The priest became a prophet.
The exile became the watchman.

The dead bones are resurrected and the temple is restored

The days passed. When the people closed their ears and did not listen, he preached.
One day the hand of God came to him again and brought him into the bones of the valley.
The Lord asked, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
Ezekiel replied, "Lord, only you know."
The Lord blows in the silence of death. Bones are connected to bones, flesh and skin are born,
and breath enters them - bones become living troops.
The Lord said, "This is the whole house of Israel. I will put my Spirit into you and make you
alive."

Later, God took him to a high mountain and showed him the unbuilt temple—every inch of it
was measured.

From that temple flowed a river, first a thread, then a great river.

Where the river flowed, life returned: trees bore fruit, leaves healed, and the Dead Sea was revived.

The Lord said, "Wherever I am, death departs."

The ending and the eternal calling

The final vision is war—Gog and Magog against God.

The earth shook, and fire fell from the sky. Victory is not from the strength of the army, but from the judgment of the Lord.

The nations therefore confessed: The Lord is God.

Ezekiel never returned to his homeland and died in exile.

But his vision is longer than him.

It travels through generations, whispering hope:

judgment is not the end, restoration is.

God is not imprisoned by temples, distance, or history—He still acts, speaks, and rises.

Dry bones will regenerate, deserts will bloom, and glory will return. The Lord who opened the vault of heaven by the Kaiba River is still opening the door for His people.

Listen –

the wheel is still turning, the river is still flowing, and the breath of life is still blowing to the dry land.

The voice of the watchman still calls:

"Speak whether anyone hears or not; No matter how far or near you want, you must believe. For in the Lord nothing is impossible."

We pray:

Faithful and Holy God,

We come before You remembering Ezekiel, standing by the river in a foreign land, far from home, yet not far from You. In Babylon, in exile, when hope seemed thin, the heavens were opened—and You revealed Your glory.

Lord, teach us through this vision. Remind us that no place is too broken, no season too dark, and no circumstance too distant for Your presence. When we feel displaced, discouraged, or surrounded by what is unfamiliar, open our eyes as You did Ezekiel's. Let us see that You are still on the throne, radiant in holiness, sovereign over every nation and every moment.

Like Ezekiel, give us hearts that tremble at Your glory and ears that are attentive to Your voice. Even when life feels like exile, help us trust that You are still speaking, still moving, still commissioning Your servants for Your purposes.

Strengthen us to stand faithfully where You have placed us. Fill us with reverence, courage, and obedience, so that we may live as witnesses to Your glory—by the rivers of our own Babylon, and wherever You send us.

We praise You, O Lord of glory, who reveals Yourself and never abandons Your people.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.