

## CHAPTER 1

**N**OW it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2 In the fifth *day* of the month, which *was* the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

4 ¶ And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness *was* about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Also out of the midst thereof *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

7 And their feet *were* straight feet; and the sole of their feet *was* like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

8 And *they had* the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

9 Their wings *were* joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

11 Thus *were* their faces: and their wings *were* stretched upward; two *wings* of every one *were* joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; *and* they

turned not when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance *was* like burning coals of fire, *and* like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

15 ¶ Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

16 The appearance of the wheels and their work *was* like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work *was* as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: *and* they turned not when they went.

18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings *were* full of eyes round about them four.

19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither *was their* spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature *was* in the wheels.

21 When those went, *these* went; and when those stood, *these* stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature *was* in the wheels.

22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature *was* as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

23 And under the firmament *were* their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

25 And there was a voice from the firmament that *was* over their heads, when they stood, *and* had let down their wings.

26 ¶ And above the firmament that *was* over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *was* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so *was* the appearance of the brightness round about. This *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

## CHAPTER 2

**A**ND he said unto me, Son of Aman, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that

hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, *even* unto this very day.

4 For *they are* impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they *are* a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

6 ¶ And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns *be* with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they *be* a rebellious house.

7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they *are* most rebellious.

8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.

9 ¶ And when I looked, behold, an hand *was* sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book *was* therein;

10 And he spread it before me; and it *was* written within and with-

out: and *there was* written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

### CHAPTER 3

**M**OREOVER he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.

2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat *it*; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.

4 ¶ And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

5 For thou *art* not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, *but* to the house of Israel;

6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee.

7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel *are* impudent and hard-

hearted.

8 Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads.

9 As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they *be* a rebellious house.

10 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

11 And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

12 Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, *saying*, Blessed *be* the glory of the LORD from his place.

13 *I heard* also the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels over against them, and a noise of a great rushing.

14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit;

but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

15 ¶ Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.

16. And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

20 Again, When a righteous *man* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in

his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *man*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

22 ¶ And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee.

23 Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face.

24 Then the spirit entered into me, and set me upon my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, Go, shut thyself within thine house.

25 But thou, O son of man, behold, they shall put bands upon thee, and shall bind thee with them, and thou shalt not go out among them:

26 And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they *are* a rebellious house.

27 But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the

Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they *are* a rebellious house.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Ezekiel was a prophet of the captivity. He was carried to Babylon in 597 B.C., eleven years before Jerusalem was destroyed. He was the son of a Zadokite priest. His wife died the day the siege of Jerusalem began.

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry began in the fifth year of Jehoiachin's exile, and continued until at least April, 571 B.C. As we read the Book of Ezekiel we will notice a striking resemblance to the Book of the Revelation. While Jeremiah was in Palestine prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel, his younger contemporary, was in Babylon, declaring the same fate for the apostate city.

Ezekiel's ministry was principally to the exiles, and his messages had a large note of consolation in them. He showed his suffering colleagues that the Lord was justified in sending His people into captivity. His ministry centered in showing the preventive and corrective nature of God's chastenings, that His people might "know that He is God." This expression is found many times throughout the book.

In chapters 1—3 God's glory is revealed to Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a priest in captivity, and thus unable to exercise his ministry, since he was away from the Temple and the sacred altar. But God opened the heavens to him and called him to be a prophet. He had been in captivity for five years when his call came. It was Ezekiel's task to tell the people that God was going to destroy Jerusalem, not Babylon, but that there would be a day when the glorious restoration of the people and the Temple would come to pass. The phrase, "The Word of the Lord came," is used 49 times in this book. How wonderful to know that God's Word is never far from God's people.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Proverbs 26:22).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 15

(found on page 8).

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1792

### THE DATE SOME GIVE FOR THE BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES G. FINNEY.

Charles G. Finney was such a powerful man of God that it is said while sitting at the table once he asked the blessing and the family fell under conviction. All of them were converted. This same type conviction was seen in public schools, in factories, and on street corners when he was present. Oh, pray for the power of God to rest upon our lives today.

### THE APPROXIMATE DATE THAT JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS BEHEADED.

1809

### THE FIRST INDIAN RESERVATION WAS ESTABLISHED.

1809

### THE BIRTHDAY OF OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

1945

### THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG WAS RAISED OVER JAPAN.

Pray for Japan today and for missionaries who serve the Lord there. Pray for God's power to rest upon them.

### SUMMER IS NEARLY OVER.

In a few days school will start and fall will begin. Are there things you had planned to do this summer that you have not done for Christ? Do them today. Talk to someone about Christ. Spend some time in prayer. Do a kind deed for another and end the summer on a spiritual plane.

## ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1894

**E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER, SOCIOLOGIST, BORN** (death in 1962).

**1957**

**CONGRESS PASSED THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1957**, the first federal civil rights legislation since 1875. The bill established a civil rights commission and a civil rights division in the Justice Department. It also gave the Justice Department authority to seek injunctions against voting rights infractions.

**1970**

**ONE POLICEMAN KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED**

**IN RACIAL CONFRONTATION** between police and Black Panther activists in Philadelphia. (8/29-31).

**1979**

**SHERIDAN BROADCASTING CORP PURCHASES MUTUAL BLACK NETWORK**, making it the first completely black owned radio network in the world

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# A Christian Life . . .

## **PAUL RADER (1879-1938)**

**American evangelist and pastor.** Paul Rader was born in Denver, Colorado. The son of a Methodist minister, he was converted to Christ as a boy and became a soloist in his father's meetings. He was educated in the University of Denver, the University of Colorado, and did postgraduate study at Harvard.

During this time, in college, he drifted into liberalism and entered a business partnership. While walking near New York City's Times Square, God spoke to him through an illuminated sign. He rented a room nearby and fell on his face before the Lord, and his life was changed. He left his business and entered the ministry. His pastorates included Congregational Church in Boston, Christian and Missionary Alliance Tabernacle in Pittsburgh (1912-15), Moody Memorial Church in Chicago (1915-21), Chicago Gospel Tabernacle (1922-33), and Gospel Temple in Fort Wayne, Indiana (1936-37).

He served as president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance from 1921 to 1923. His radio broadcasts were heard on various Chicago stations as well as the CBS network. He was instrumental in sending scores of missionaries to countries all over the world, in addition to influencing hundreds of young men to enter the ministry.



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# Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

## MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 15 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

### **DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I MUST BECOME BETTER BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN"**

(     ) Luke 5:31

And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

(     ) Luke 5:32

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

(     ) Luke 18:10

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

(     ) Luke 18:11

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

(     ) Luke 18:12 (see Luke 18:13-14)

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.