SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Ezekiel

Chapter 1

The Throne Above the Storm

MEMORY VERSE · EZEKIEL 1:28

"As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Ezekiel 1

Ezekiel was a priest with no temple, sitting by a canal in a foreign land, when God opened heaven to him. This week, let God show you that His throne reaches the place where you are — and let the sight of His glory put you on your face, listening.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Ezekiel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Heaven Opened in Exile

READ · EZEKIEL 1:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List every detail Ezekiel gives about when and where this happened (vv. 1–3). Why do you think he is so exact?

REFLECT

Ezekiel was "among the exiles" with no temple to serve in (v. 1). What is your Babylon right now — the place you never wanted to be?

REFLECT

"The hand of the LORD came upon him" (v. 3). What would change in your day if you believed God's hand was on you there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the exact place you are today (a cell, a room, a job, a bed). Then pray: 'Lord, open heaven here.'

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 1:28)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Storm and the Living Beings

READ · EZEKIEL 1:4–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Ezekiel see coming "from the north," and what was in the middle of it (v. 4)?

REFLECT

The storm came from the same direction as the coming judgment, yet God was in it (v. 4). What storm in your life are you afraid God has left you in?

REFLECT

The living beings went "straight forward" wherever the spirit went, "without turning" (vv. 9, 12). Where are you most tempted to turn aside — to old places, old people or old habits?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one detour you will refuse today. Tell one trusted brother about it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 1:28)

DAY 3 OF 5

Wheels Full of Eyes

READ · EZEKIEL 1:15–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Describe the wheels in your own words. What were the rims full of, and what moved the wheels (vv. 18, 20)?

REFLECT

The wheels could move in any of four directions without turning (v. 17). How does it change your fear to know there is no place God cannot go?

REFLECT

The rims were "full of eyes round about" (v. 18). Where does it comfort you that God sees everything — and where does it make you uneasy?

RESPOND — TODAY

Each time you change places today (home, work, yard, dayroom), say quietly: 'You are here too, Lord.'

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 1:28)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Voice Above the Expanse

READ · EZEKIEL 1:22–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the wings sound like, and what did the living beings do when the voice came from above (vv. 24–25)?

REFLECT

Even the mighty living beings stood still and dropped their wings when the voice spoke (v. 25). What noise in your life do you need to quiet so you can hear God?

REFLECT

What usually fills the first and last ten minutes of your day? How could some of that time become listening time?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend ten silent minutes today with your Bible open to Ezekiel 1, asking God to speak. Write down one thing you heard.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 1:28)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Throne and the Rainbow

READ · EZEKIEL 1:26–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What sat on the throne, and what surrounded Him (vv. 26–28)?

REFLECT

On the throne was "a figure with the appearance of a man" (v. 26). How does Jesus, who became a real man, help you see this God as near and not only terrifying?

REFLECT

A rainbow — the sign of God's promise to Noah — circled the throne (v. 28). Which of God's promises do you most need to hold on to this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get low before God today — on your knees or on your face — and thank Him that His throne is surrounded by mercy.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (EZEKIEL 1:28)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Before this week, how big or small was your picture of God? What in Ezekiel 1 stretched it (vv. 18, 26–28)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Ezekiel's ministry started on his face, not on his feet (v. 28). How might your service to others change if it started there?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

What is one way our group can remind each other that God reaches the hard places we live in (v. 1)?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You opened heaven to a captive by a canal, so today I ask You to meet me right here, where…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · EZEKIEL 1:28

"As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking."