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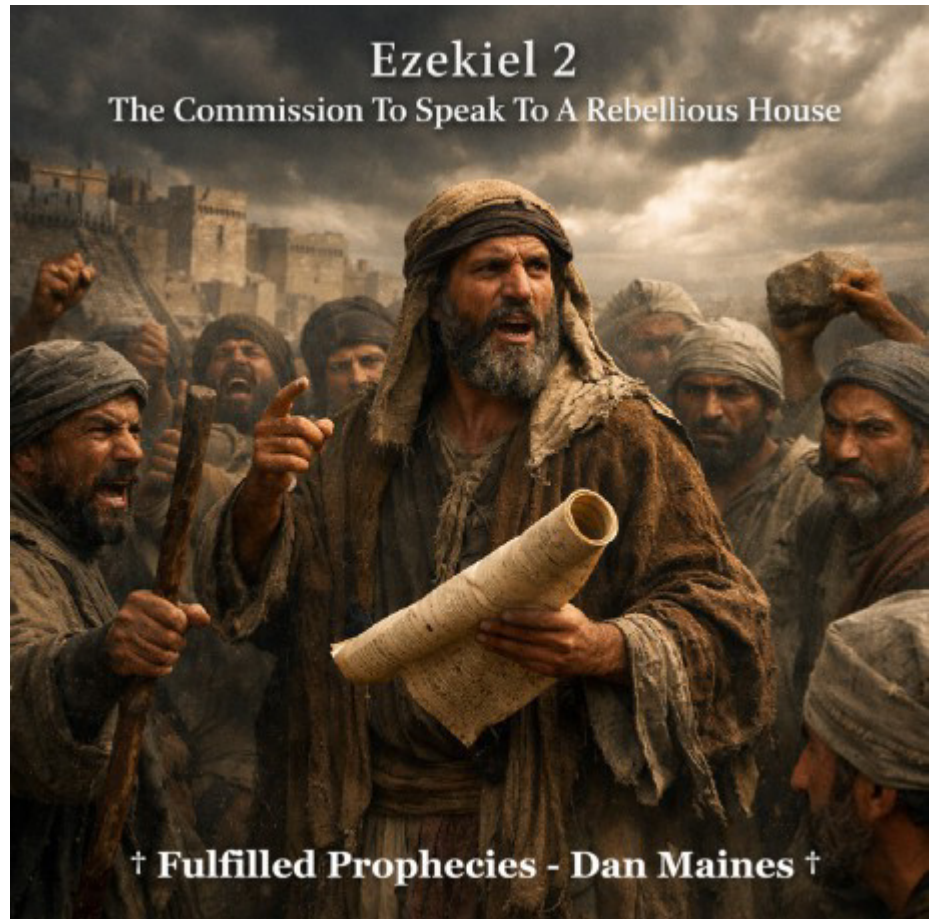
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## Ezekiel 2 The Commission To Speak To A Rebellious House



By Dan Maines

## Ezekiel 2 The Commission To Speak To A Rebellious House

### Introduction

† Ezekiel 2 continues directly from the vision of chapter 1, where the glory of the Lord appeared to Ezekiel and overwhelmed him, now God raises him up and gives him a mission, showing that revelation is always followed by responsibility (Ezekiel 1:28; Ezekiel 2:1)

† This chapter establishes the nature of Israel at that time, a rebellious people, and the role of the prophet, not to succeed outwardly, but to faithfully speak God's words regardless of response (Jeremiah 7:25-27; Isaiah 6:9-10)

† From the fulfilled perspective, this rebellion culminated in the first century generation that rejected Christ and brought covenant judgment upon themselves, fulfilling everything spoken beforehand (Matthew 23:34-36; Luke 21:20-22)

## **Ezekiel 2:1**

Then He said to me, Son of man, stand on your feet so that I may speak with you.

† God calls Ezekiel Son of man, emphasizing his humanity and weakness in contrast to divine authority, reminding us that God uses human vessels to deliver His word (Psalm 8:4; Daniel 7:13)

† The command to stand shows that God empowers those He calls, Ezekiel could not stand until God spoke and strengthened him (Ezekiel 2:2; Romans 5:6)

† This reflects how Christ later calls and strengthens His disciples to stand and speak in the face of opposition (Acts 4:13; 2 Corinthians 3:5)

## **Ezekiel 2:2**

And as He spoke to me the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard Him speaking to me.

† The Spirit entering Ezekiel shows divine empowerment, not emotional inspiration, but actual enabling to carry out God's will (Numbers 11:25; Judges 6:34)

† This points forward to the greater outpouring of the Spirit in the first century, equipping the apostles to speak boldly to Israel (Acts 2:4; Acts 1:8)

† It also shows that hearing God's word requires God-given ability, not human effort (John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

### **Ezekiel 2:3**

Then He said to me, Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me, they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.

† Israel is called rebellious nations, showing that covenant privilege did not guarantee obedience or righteousness (Deuteronomy 9:6-7; Isaiah 1:2-4)

† Their rebellion is continuous, from their fathers until that present day, showing a pattern of covenant unfaithfulness (Nehemiah 9:16-17; Acts 7:51)

† This same pattern reached its peak in the generation that rejected Christ, proving that the issue was not lack of revelation, but hardened hearts (Matthew 21:42-45; Acts 7:52)

### **Ezekiel 2:4**

I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children, and you shall say to them, This is what the Lord God says.

† Impudent and stiffhearted describes a people who resist correction and refuse submission, just as Israel did throughout its history (Exodus 32:9; Jeremiah 5:23)

† The authority of the message is not in the prophet, but in Thus says the Lord, meaning Ezekiel speaks God's words, not his own (Deuteronomy 18:18; 2 Peter 1:21)

† This mirrors the apostles, who spoke with authority not because of themselves, but because they carried the word of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

## **Ezekiel 2:5**

As for them, whether they listen or not, for they are a rebellious house, they will know that a prophet has been among them.

† The success of Ezekiel's mission is not based on their response, but on his faithfulness to speak (Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 1:7)

† Even in rejection, God's presence among them is made known, they cannot claim ignorance (John 15:22)

† This was fulfilled in the first century when Israel rejected Christ and His apostles, yet their judgment proved a prophet had been among them (Matthew 24:30; Luke 19:41-44)

## **Ezekiel 2:6**

And as for you, son of man, you shall not fear them nor fear their words, though thistles and thorns are with you and you sit on scorpions, neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house.

† God prepares Ezekiel for hostility, showing that truth brings opposition, especially from those who resist God (John 15:18-20)

† Thistles, thorns, and scorpions symbolize painful resistance and danger, yet God commands fearlessness (Micah 7:4; Luke

10:19)

† This same courage was required of the apostles, who faced persecution yet continued to speak boldly (Acts 5:29-32)

### **Ezekiel 2:7**

But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.

† The command is clear, speak My words, not soften them, not alter them, just deliver them faithfully (Galatians 1:10)

† Their rebellion does not cancel the responsibility to speak truth (2 Timothy 4:2)

† This is exactly what Christ did, speaking truth even when it led to rejection and crucifixion (John 18:37)

### **Ezekiel 2:8**

Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you, do not be rebellious like that rebellious house, open your mouth and eat what I am giving you.

† Ezekiel is warned not to become like the people he is sent to, showing that even God's messenger must remain obedient (Hebrews 3:12-13)

† Eating what God gives symbolizes receiving and internalizing God's word before speaking it (Jeremiah 15:16; Revelation 10:9-10)

† This shows that true ministry flows from what God has first placed within the messenger (Colossians 3:16)

## **Ezekiel 2:9**

Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me, and behold, a scroll was in it.

† The scroll represents the written word of God, showing that Ezekiel's message is not his own invention (Psalm 40:7)

† The hand delivering it shows divine origin, not human authority (Isaiah 30:8)

† This connects to the prophetic tradition and ultimately to the completed revelation fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2)

## **Ezekiel 2:10**

When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were songs of mourning, sighing, and woe.

† The scroll being written on both sides shows fullness, nothing is lacking, the message is complete (Revelation 5:1)

† The content of lamentation, mourning, and woe reveals the nature of the message, judgment is coming because of covenant unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 11:11)

† This finds its fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, where all the warnings given by the prophets and Christ came to pass (Luke 21:22; Matthew 24:21)

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the stubbornness of the Jewish people leading up to AD 70, showing they ignored repeated warnings and fulfilled the description of a rebellious house, Wars of the

## Jews, Book 5

† Tacitus also notes the defiance and internal corruption of Jerusalem before its fall, confirming the historical reality of their rebellion, Histories 5.12-13

† Eusebius writes that the Christians heeded the warnings and fled Jerusalem, proving that the prophetic word was given and understood by those who listened, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

### **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We are called to speak God's word faithfully, not based on how people respond, but because God has spoken (2 Timothy 4:2)

† We must not fear opposition or rejection, truth has always been resisted by hardened hearts (John 16:33)

† We need to internalize God's word before sharing it, letting it shape us first (Colossians 3:16)

† The judgment on Jerusalem reminds us that God is faithful to His word, both in warning and fulfillment (Matthew 24:34)

† We are not to become like the rebellious world around us, but remain faithful to God's truth (Romans 12:2)

### **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why does God call Ezekiel Son of man?

**A:** It emphasizes his humanity and God's authority over him (Ezekiel 2:1; Psalm 8:4)

**Q:** What does it mean that Israel is a rebellious house?

**A:** It shows their continual rejection of God's covenant and

prophets (Ezekiel 2:3; Acts 7:51)

**Q:** Why must Ezekiel speak even if they won't listen?

**A:** Because faithfulness to God matters more than human response (Ezekiel 2:5; Isaiah 55:11)

**Q:** What does eating the scroll represent?

**A:** Receiving and internalizing God's word before speaking it (Ezekiel 2:8; Jeremiah 15:16)

**Q:** How is this fulfilled in the first century?

**A:** Israel's rejection of Christ and the resulting judgment in AD 70 fulfilled the warnings (Luke 21:22; Matthew 23:36)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† Ezekiel 2:1-10

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5

† Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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