

BY REV. M. F. HODGES

Subject—Ezekiel and His Mission.  
Golden Text—"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"—Isaiah 55:6,7.

For our study today we take up Ezekiel 2:1-6 and 3:17-21. In these few verses we find a great deal said about what the prophet is to do. But it is necessary to go further and find out something about the man. The name Ezekiel signifies "God strengthens." He was one of the four greater prophets, and was carried captive to Babylon by the Chaldeans along with Jehoiachin king of Judah, and was placed with many others of his countrymen upon the river Chebar in Mesopotamia, where he received the divine revelation contained in his book.

About the fifth year of his captivity he began to prophesy and continued for about twenty-two years, boldly crying out against the idolatry and wickedness of his countrymen. It was his fearlessness and vehemence of condemnation that afterwards cost him his life. The outstanding characteristics of his life was the subordination of his whole life to his work.

Ezekiel in the first chapter of his book, gives an account of his vision, before this demonstration he falls prostrate and then is the beginning of today's lesson when he hears the voice speaking to him and commanding to stand upon his feet and hear what God has to say to him. In the first six verses of the second chapter he receives his commission to go to the house of Judah and warn them to repent. We find a parallel to this in the vision of Isaiah which he saw as recorded in the sixth chapter of the book bearing his name.

During the past three months we have studied the kings of Judah and their sins. They are still called by their ancestral name, but see how far they are from being what God wanted them to be and what they were to be according to promise. They promised long ago to stand by Jehovah their God and be true to Him, what a miserable failure they have made; all on account of sin, that which they chose to do because they are their own free moral agents to choose for themselves. "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 day." The prophet is here called to a difficult task. Hear what is said to him: "Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house." There is not one word to indicate that the prophet for once rebelled. He went to the difficult task without hesitation. He was told that they would not hearken to him, because said the Lord they will not hearken to me. But they were to know that there had been a prophet among them; they were left without excuse.

"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." How many of us ministers of the Gospel could stand as did the prophet, when he was told what was to await him? We like to follow the paths of least resistance. If the way is smooth, salary good, folks flock to hear us, and there is no hard paths and scorpions to tread among, we are ready. But how many falter and fail when trials and difficulties befall. The Savior commissioned his followers in the beginning and told them what to expect. They found it just as he had said. Ezekiel was ready to go when he had tarried and caught a vision of God, of himself and his duty. What the church and ministry needs today is a new vision.

"Son of man, I have made thee watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from Me." There is a fearful responsibility attached to the call to the ministry. To stand a watchman on the ramparts and warn the man of approaching danger. How unpopular it is today to cry aloud against the sins of the times. The law of the land protects against public sentiment that it is none of the watchman's business what folks do. It is very unpopular to cry out against Sabbath desecration, which is observed in the country, small town and city. There is but little regard for holy living.

About the first question recorded in the pages of the Holy Book is: "Am I my brother's keeper?" If I see men and women going into danger and fail to warn them and they are lost their blood will be required at my hands. If I warn them and then they are lost, their blood will be upon their own heads. We often worry and lose much sleep over results. The

Lord will look after the results. The question with this duty. Are we, in pulpit and pew faithful watchmen on the ramparts? Have we come to realize that we are our brother's keeper?

Ezekiel could not act in the office of priest because there were no altars and the people were wicked and rebellious, hard hearted and stiff necked. The Lord chose him for a prophet. He first caught the vision and then heard the call to service and was willing to go, even though it was to cost him his life.

These Jews were driven from their homeland into exile, yet God did not utterly forsake them. How good and merciful He is. He is giving them a last chance. Theirs was the grossest sins. Ingratitude and rebellion: yet God is seeking to bring them back to reconciliation with himself. They hardened their hearts and stiffened their necks to keep God from saving them. Men do the same thing today as they did then. To sum up the lesson we have the following: Ezekiel's vision, call to service, duty set out before him, he goes to the difficult task without fear of their words and the consequences of his message to them; delivered God's message to this rebellious people, standing as God's messenger faithful to the task.

There is a parallel to this lesson in the New Testament. "Jesus came unto His own, and his own received him not." He went outside the city of Jerusalem and wept over the city because they had rebelled against all the overtures of mercy sent to them. It does not become us to criticize too harshly disobedient and rebellious Judah until we have examined conditions close home and seen how we stand as Christian America. Are we not today, taken as a whole a rebellious and disobedient people? Are we not ungrateful, unthankful and unholy? When we stop to consider our advantages over and above those of Judah how much more is our responsibility. Are we living up to our advantages? It is fearful to observe the trend of the times; how the world has gone wild after the god of gold, pride and pleasure. Has the church lived up to her God-given opportunity for service? Are we so living as prophet and people, so that the world respects our high calling? Draw from this lesson your own idea of the times in which we live.

## POWELLVILLE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Raynor were visitors in Ahoskie Sunday.

Dr. J. B. Ruffin took Mrs. Edgar Perry to the hospital Tuesday.

Mrs. C. T. Wynne and Miss Carrie Belle Ruffin spent the week-end at Mrs. Wynne's old home near Windsor.

Miss Hattie Tayloe has concluded a pleasant visit with friends and relatives at Windsor.

Miss Edna Tyler from Helena, Ark. is visiting her aunt, Mrs. W. S. Tayloe.

Miss Helen Storey who has been spending some time with her grandfather, Mr. J. E. Wynne, has returned to her home in Norfolk.

Miss Laura Leigh Riddick made a hurry call here Monday from Gatesville, on business.

Miss Clarine Wynne was a visitor in Ahoskie Tuesday.

Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Ruffin and son, Guy were visitors in Winton Sunday and Monday.

Misses Clarine Wynne, Elizabeth Perry, Louise Ruffin, have returned home after spending some time with Miss Laura Leigh Riddick of Gatesville.

Mr. E. S. Winborne was in Norfolk Thursday.

Miss Elsie Miller is visiting her cousin Miss Edith Harrell.

Mrs. J. J. Alston is on the sick list this week.

Mr. Edgar Perry and Mrs. Bill White went to Norfolk Monday to see Mrs. Perry who underwent an operation at the Sarah Leigh Hospital.

Mrs. John Alston has returned from Norfolk where she went to see her daughter who is very ill in the Sarah Leigh Hospital.

Quite a party from here attended the minstrel show at Mars Hill last week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Sessoms were visitors here Sunday.

Mrs. Vassie Green from Ahoskie is visiting her sister Mrs. L. H. Freeman.

A number of our young folks went to Pleasure Beach Sunday.

## HORTON PERSONALS

Rev. W. H. Holland filled his regular appointment here Saturday and Sunday and preached two strong sermons.

Miss Bertha Powell of Chowan College spent the week-end with home folks here.

Mr. Tom Brogden died Sunday after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Greene of Aulander visited relatives here Sunday.

Our crops are looking much better since the rain has stopped.

## PARIS ETCHER FOUND ARTIST

Marketed Prints Which Brought Fame to Soldier of the American Expeditionary Force.

Alonso C. Webb, the American soldier who has won sudden fame in Paris art circles by his distinctive etchings, was content to pass his prints out among his friends. One day, however, while he was having his etchings printed by the old-fashioned process called "taille douce," the printer said: "Why don't you sell these etchings?" "They're not good enough," replied Webb.

"You're crazy," said the printer; "you wouldn't mind selling them, would you? Don't you need the money?"

"Yes, God knows I need it, but I never thought of selling these things," Webb.

The old man gave Webb a note to a dealer in the Rue de Rivoli who took "on depot" one each of five prints. The very next day Webb received a letter at his home at Bellevue, asking for three more to replace those the dealer had sold the first day.

"That must have been a happy morning at Bellevue," I remarked, somewhat stirred at this turning point in the life story.

"Not especially," Webb replied. "I'm partly Scotch and don't often get excited. I take good luck just as I take bad. I rarely even tell about good luck."

"But don't you deprive yourself of a delightful thrill?"

"The pleasure is no less in the aggregate. I take it in a quieter form; it lasts longer and there is no reaction."—Charles H. Grasty in the New York Times.

Drink a glass of real hot water before breakfast to wash out poisons.

Life is not merely to live, but to live well, eat well, digest well, work well, sleep well, look well. What a glorious condition to attain; and yet how very easy it is if one will only adopt the morning inside bath.

Folks who are accustomed to feel dull and heavy when they arise, splitting headache, stuffy from a cold, foul tongue, nasty breath, acid stomach, can, instead, feel as fresh as a daisy by opening the sluices of the system each morning and flushing out the whole of the internal poisonous stagnant matter.

Everyone, whether ailing, sick or well, should, each morning, before breakfast, drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour bile and poisonous toxins; thus cleansing, sweetening and purifying the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach. The action of hot water and limestone phosphate on an empty stomach is wonderfully invigorating. It cleans out all the sour fermentations, gases, waste and acidity and gives one a splendid appetite for breakfast. While you are enjoying your breakfast the water and phosphate is quietly extracting a large volume of water from the blood and getting ready for a thorough flushing of all the inside organs.

The millions of people who are bothered with constipation, bilious spells, stomach trouble, rheumatism; others who have sallow skins, blood disorders and sickly complexions are urged to get a quarter pound of limestone phosphate from the drug store which will cost very little, but is sufficient to make anyone a pronounced crank on the subject of internal sanitation.

## MEAT INJURIOUS TO THE KIDNEYS

Take a tablespoonful of Salts if Back hurts or Bladder bothers—Meat forms uric acid.

We are a nation of meat eaters and our blood is filled with uric acid, says a well-known authority, who warns us to be constantly on guard against kidney trouble.

The kidneys do their utmost to free the blood of this irritating acid, but become weak from the overwork; they get sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and thus the waste is retained in the blood to poison the entire system.

When your kidneys ache and feel like lumps of lead, and you have stinging pains in the back or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment, or the bladder is irritable, obliging you to seek relief during the night; when you have severe headaches, nervous and dizzy spells, sleeplessness, acid stomach or rheumatism in bad weather, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast each morning and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys, to neutralize the acids in urine so it is no longer a source of irritation, thus ending urinary and bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink, and nobody can make a mistake by taking a little occasionally to keep the kidneys clean and active.

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## Money To Loan

For the benefit of the farmers and patrons of this bank, we take pleasure in announcing that we are now in position to make loans of small amounts for thirty, sixty and ninety days.

If you are a patron of this institution and need money to help you with your crop, don't fail to come in and let us explain how we can help you. It is not only our duty to extend our courtesy to the people of this section, but it is our pleasure to do so.

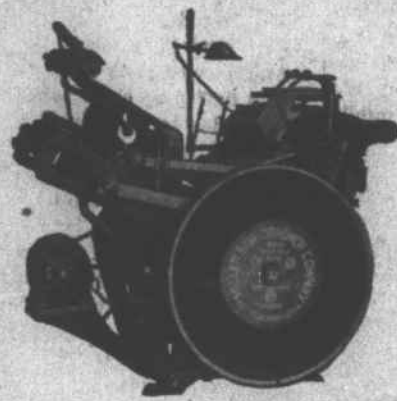
Realizing that this is a season when the farmers and the general public of this section are usually somewhat pressed financially and realizing the necessity of co-operation between the farmers and the banking institutions, we want them to know that we are willing and glad to help them in any way possible.

Every courtesy extended according to consistent and conservative banking.

## BANK OF AHOSKIE

"The Old Reliable"

Ahoskie, N. C.



For Quick Printing

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The HERALD

## Getting It On Time

To a business, the matter of "getting out" advertising on time means everything---and to get Office Stationery, Special Forms, Statements, etc., when they are most needed. We are in a position to give you that "on time" service. We specialize in Job Printing and our self-feeding presses enable us to handle large orders.

## Hertford County Herald

Printers and Publishers

Ahoskie,

North Carolina