

August 18 Answers

- 1) God called Ezekiel to be a prophet to the **exiles** in Babylon. His prophetic call was amazing. God came to him in a vision, and he saw “the likeness of the **glory** of the LORD” (Ezek 1:28). God revealed himself in this spectacular way in order to instill in Ezekiel a renewed sense of **who** He was. This understanding **drove** Ezekiel’s ministry. It enabled him to proclaim God’s message with fervor and show the exiled Jews who it was that they had rejected. God warned Ezekiel from the beginning that he was being sent to a “**rebellious** house” (seven times in chs. 1–3 in ESV). But whether the exiles listened or not, they would know that a **prophet** had been among them. This teaches us that our responsibility is to **obey** and leave the results in God’s hands. God appointed Ezekiel as Israel’s **watchman**. His job was to warn the people, and he would be held accountable if he failed in this task (Ezek 3:20). God wanted him to: (1) show the exiles **why** they had been taken captive (Ezek 5:7), (2) dispel any false belief that their captivity was going to be **short** (Ezek 5:14–17), (3) call them to **repent** and return to covenant faithfulness (Ezek 14:6), and (4) bring a message of **hope** to those who were loyal to God (Ezek 11:16–20).