

“The Book Of Ezekiel: The Nation of Rebels”
Ezekiel 2:1-10

“Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town....O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it. How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and **you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.**”
(Matthew 23:34,37-38)

“Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11)

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O LORD, God of hosts.” (Jeremiah 15:16)

- Ezekiel 2:1-2: The Spirit empowered Prophet.
 - Ezekiel is called **“The Son of Man” 93 times** in the book of Ezekiel. This is a title that shows his identification with mankind.
 - God gives the wisdom to do His work and God gives the power to do His work (Exodus 4:10-15; **Jeremiah 1:4-9**).
 - In God sending a prophet, He is showing His love for His rebellious people.
- Ezekiel 2:3-5: A Rebellious People.
 - Rebelliousness that is not repented of becomes a generational and national issue.
 - Israel had become like the nations around them; rebellious to God.
 - Israel’s rebellion was not an issue of ignorance, it was an issue of defiance.
 - The people were **impudent**, “hard of face” and they were **stubborn**, “hard of heart.” The condition of the heart is always seen when God calls for repentance and obedience. *“Thus says the LORD God.”*
- Ezekiel 2:6-7: The Fearless Prophet.
 - Four times in verse 6 Ezekiel is told “Be not afraid/dismayed.”
 - The **bricks, thorns, and scorpions** are descriptive of the pain that Ezekiel is going to experience in preaching to these rebellious people.
 - The message must go out, received or rejected. God calls His messengers to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:10), not “successful.”
- Ezekiel 2:8-10: The Sweet or Bitter Message.
 - Before we preach the Word we must have the Word transform our lives.
 - The Word of God is to be consumed. It is to go into our hearts and become a part of our lives (Matthew 4:4; John 6:35,54; Revelation 10:9-10).
 - The scroll had lamentation, woe, and mourning on both sides, pointing to the excessive sin of God’s people.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of September we are collecting monetary donations for the Christian Union Co-op. This is the general fund out of which the denomination aids individual churches within the denomination, as well as paying for repairs and upkeep of the State Home Office. The money we are collecting will go directly towards repairs that need to be done to the grounds and to the kitchen. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Christian Union.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, September 22nd, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something for the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We have two different ministries that are in need of some volunteers:

- The Maintenance Ministry** is looking for two to three people to join the ministry to help with the set-up and teardown for services and fellowship meals. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please see Hunter Ardrey.
- The Children's Ministry** is also looking for some volunteers. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please see Kalen or Courtney Dees.