

Dramatic Messages from God

One defining characteristic of Ezekiel's prophetic ministry is the visual nature of the messages he received from God. In the book of Ezekiel, God repeatedly gives his prophet both a verbal message and instructions on how to also convey that message visually. God goes to these lengths because he wants his people to see the consequences of sin and rebellion and to help the people understand why exile was necessary. Through Ezekiel's prophetic ministry, we witness God's heartbreak and grief. We discover he is not an angry God, but rather a God who deeply loves his people and goes through great effort to get their attention.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Would you consider yourself rebellious? Why or why not?
- How would you define the word consequences?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Dramatic Messages from God*](#)

READ [Ezekiel 4-7, 12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Can you imagine what it might have been like to be an Israelite who witnessed Ezekiel perform the actions God instructed him to do? How do you think you would have responded?
- What did you learn about God's character or God's nature by listening to this episode? Or of which aspect of God's character or nature did you gain a deeper understanding?
- Even though Ezekiel's messages about rebellion and exile are focused on Israel, what do they teach us or help us understand today? How does this knowledge and understanding benefit us in light of our relationship with Jesus?
- In segment 3, host Darrell Delaney says, "Isn't it interesting, Scott, that we don't always believe there are consequences for our actions? I mean, we just think that sometimes God will just overlook things and not judge it or not pay attention; but we do serve a God who is paying attention to those things." Think back over your life. When has this statement been true for you? How did God help you recognize the consequences of your sin?
- What happens to the consequences of our sin and rebellion in light of the grace we receive through Jesus? How should or does this impact the way you live?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Deuteronomy 28](#), [Genesis 6:5-7](#), [Isaiah 49:1-7](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Matthew 21:33-46](#), [John 3:16-17](#)

CONCLUSION

What are some of the consequences you've experienced in your life as a result of your defiance or rebellion? Were you warned in advance? Think about the state of your heart right now—is God trying to get your attention? Spend some time in prayer. Thank God that he loves and cares for you enough to get your attention. Seek wisdom and understanding regarding any consequences that might be in your future because of the choices you have made or are making. Remember and give thanks that exile and consequences are not the end of the story, rather in Jesus Christ you receive grace.

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