

Introduction: Grace, mercy, and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

- **2154.** What does that number mean to you?
- **Time** in seconds = about 35 minutes (probably twice the time of sermon)
- **Distance** in miles = distance our Traveling Vacation Bible School flier team made in 2 days to get here
- More impressive... the desire to come and serve, and for them who came likely unseen outcome of efforts
- Consider the Word of the Lord today from Ezekiel. Does it compare at all with today?

Ezekiel 2:1 He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." 2 As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' 5 And whether they listen or fail to listen-- for they are a rebellious house-- they will know that a prophet has been among them. 6 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. 7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

THEME: YOU ARE MADE READY TO FACE THE REBELLION

1. The Readiness of a PROPHET

- a. **1:28** Ezekiel - falls on his face before the LORD (why? Because he was shown a vision of the LORD!)
 - i. Direct address... "Son of man" (used approximately 90 times throughout the book – why?)
 1. For encouragement or discouragement?
 - a. Ezekiel was a priest during the captivity in Babylon – did he need any more discouragement? Could things get any lower?
 - b. Ezekiel's constant reminder from God– part of this rebellious world (human)
 - c. He cannot stand before the presence of the Almighty God –something for us to consider with God's Law/Judgment Day/God's Word
 - d. God could have used it to discourage old man (what can you do on your own man?)
Job 38:3-5a /encourage new man (rely on the LORD only!) **Ps 8:3,4**
- b. **2:1** The LORD - sets Ezekiel up on his feet
 - i. **2:2** It is the LORD's doing...
 1. The Spirit came into him, Raised him up off the ground, Ezekiel heard the LORD speaking then (see chapter 1 vision)
- c. **2 Cor. 12:7ff** COMPARE with Paul (key phrases here for us to be faithful servants)
 - i. "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
 - ii. "Christ's power..." –not our own that causes us to do God's will
 - iii. "When I am weak, then I am strong."
 - iv. Think of our own afflictions or "thorns" that hinder or torment us
 1. **2:6** No reason to fear whom we are sent to...
 - a. Even though briars and thorns follow us
 - b. Their words are like venom of a scorpion
 - c. Shoot looks at you
- d. **Mark 6:1ff** COMPARE with Jesus
 - i. "Son of man" used with Jesus?
 1. Discouragement (isn't this the carpenter, son of Mary, brothers and sisters? Some were offended because he was man)
 2. Encouragement (this is who the Christ had to become to fulfill God's plan for salvation)
Matt 12:40 Sign of Jonah = sign Jesus more than just a son of man
- e. COMPARE all of these examples to YOU...
 - i. The LORD stands us up on our feet and gives us His Word

- ii. The LORD makes us ready to go, use His Word, do His will
- iii. The LORD makes you ready to face your own rebellious nature and the rebellious world of sinful mankind... IS YOUR AUDIENCE READY?

2. The Readiness of a PEOPLE

- a. 2:3 To Rebel!!!
 - i. The Israelites – God’s chosen nation whom the Savior would come from
 - ii. Disobedient to their Heavenly Father
 - iii. Rebellious to their LORD and Master, their provider for all their needs
 - iv. Spiritually adulterous because they went after other gods, True God not first in their lives
- b. 2:3 To hear the Law!!!
 - i. Ezekiel was to say “This is what the Sovereign LORD says.”
 - ii. It was to be God’s Word
 - 1. God would **condemn**
 - 2. God would **point out** their rebellion
 - 3. God would **rebuke** their stubbornness and wickedness
- c. 2:4 This is the way of the world...
 - i. Proud, unsatisfied, stubborn, shameless, and so on
 - ii. In need of (ready) to hear God’s condemnation, but also the satisfaction of sin in Christ Jesus
WE SEE HOW THIS IS TRUE!

3. The Readiness of a PURPOSE

- a. 2:3 Ezekiel brought low (the need for humility when undertaking God’s purpose)
 - i. 2:7 Sent to preach God’s Word regardless if they’d hear it or not
 - ii. 2:5 They will know a prophet of the One true Almighty LORD was sent to them when the words of LORD from the mouth of the prophet happens
 - iii. 2:8 God’s purpose was for Ezekiel to speak and walk in the way of the LORD, regardless of the outcome
- b. Go back to the text and look at or circle
 - i. **“Rebellious”** used often... is there a better word to describe mankind?
 - 1. We have spoken about sin (Greek: hamartano = literally to miss the mark, a failure to do God’s Will) shooting bull’s-eyes perfectly every time
 - 2. Fellow believers -we are brought low by the three enemies... devil/world/flesh, “bull’s-eyes with them?” ...but lifted up by Christ (he hit the bull’s eyes for us!)
 - 3. What is God’s purpose? To give the rebellious world His Word whether they reject it or not, to demonstrate His love to them through the death of Jesus Christ the Son of not just of man... but true and only Son of God
 - ii. **“Be not afraid”** used more than once... God’s comfort for you?
 - 1. As a mouthpiece of our Savior we may speak fearlessly in a rebellious world
 - 2. We are slaves to sin, but have been set free by Christ to serve Him without fear
 - 3. TVBS flier distributors and ourselves – going whether the message is read or not
 - a. But the active word is... GOING, because the LORD sent you for opportunities such as this
 - 4. 2:8 Christ gives us the spiritual food for our souls, joy and comfort that is sweet
- c. Psalm 143:1-2, 5-8 We read about and remember His loving kindness and it satisfies our souls
- d. Because not just any old purpose... God’s purpose, is to set you on your feet (**made ready:**)
 - i. To **pull you** away from the rebellion of sin
 - ii. To **help you** through the briars and thorns and scorpions of this life
 - iii. To hear what **He speaks** to us!
 - iv. To speak what **He says** to us! (two ears – one mouth ratio!)
- e. Today’s focus: *Examples of faithful servants of God* - extensive list in the Bible... what about today?
 - i. Don’t just see or admire the examples as mere entertainment, but by the Grace of God you and I will continue to pray... to **BE** an example of a faithful servant of Christ!

FOR IT IS THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD ALONE: YOU ARE MADE READY TO FACE THE REBELLION! AMEN.