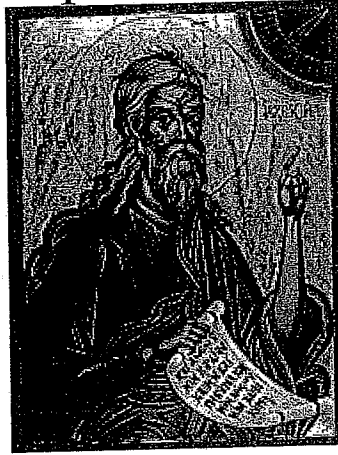


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
July 21, 2013

✦Prophet Ezekiel✦



“And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.”
- prophesy of the bones, Ezekiel

Upcoming Services:
Saturday- Great Vespers at 6:00 PM

Check out our website-[theoliveshoots.webstarts.com!](http://theoliveshoots.webstarts.com)



Troparion — Tone 3

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
O Prophet of God
Thou hast proclaimed the outcome of mysteries that were come to pass,
Even God the Word's ineffable self-emptying
And the Resurrection of the dead from all ages past!
O glorious Ezekiel!
Intercede with Christ our God
That we may be granted great mercy

Kontakion — Tone 4

Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God,
O wondrous Ezekiel!
Proclaiming to all the Incarnation of the Lord,
the Lamb and Creator,
The Son of God Who has ever revealed Himself!

Today's Bible Verse:

“And I say to you that many will come from east and west,
and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom
of heaven.

“But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer
darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

~ Matthew 8:11-12

What Does it Mean?

Christ's Word and Salvation is available to anyone willing to accept it, no matter where someone comes from. Jesus was saying that people from all over the Earth will enter Heaven, but even some of the Jews, God's chosen people, will not be taken into the Kingdom just because they are Jewish. And even today, just being a Christian is not enough- one must live, act, and believe in a Christian way.

Prophet Ezekiel

Use the bold words in the story and write them below, and then find them in the word search.

P R O P H E T I W N W E S N U
V Z V Q Z R M P V A E E V O K
Z P F Y I I V B T E R O M I I
I B I K Y F Z E L U C E F S L
O V M E U X R O T D R K H I L
T O K Y Z S T A B U Y N F V E
R S K T K E E E T Z S J C R D
H I T I Y R K U M N T P A D C
O U D V C T F I C P A P I U B
T S E I R P R V E H L V F J L
Y W W T R S I I V L I E S D E
Q R N P N P E Z H D U O L C G
O S Z A G R M N E T O D Q E F
G C F C Y V N D O H E B R E W
Z A Z P D T Q J B W L B B H

The Prophet Ezekiel

The **Prophet Ezekiel** was a Jewish **priest**, who was taken away from his home to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar (Nebba-koodoo-nezzer), along with many other Jews.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in **captivity** by the River Chebar (chay-bar). When he was **thirty** years old, he had a **vision** of the **future** of the **Hebrew** nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining **cloud**, with **fire** flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living **creatures** in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like **crystal**. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St Matthew), a lion (St Mark), an ox (St Luke), and an eagle (St John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's service.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the **temple** of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the **bones** in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, **divided** the **waters** of the river Chebar (chay-bar), and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans (cho-ld-eans). During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was **killed** because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for worshipping an idol. He was tied to wild horses, and was torn to pieces.