



Sunday 14th August 2016

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A Fresh Start.

Ezekiel 1

1. Read Ezekiel 1:25-28, then 2:1-10, then 3:1-15. Discuss Allan's comment "*this book is about confrontation, consolation, and comforting*" and it is "*to a rebellious nation in revolt and very stubborn... that they will know that a prophet has been among them*". Who was speaking to Ezekiel and what did he tell Ezekiel to do and say?
2. A scroll was handed to Ezekiel to eat and on both sides "*were words of lament and mourning and woe*". Then how is it that the scroll tastes sweet? Can bad news taste sweet? How would you expect Israel to feel about the situation they were in around 586 BC since they had gone through tumultuous times and had been in captivity for 70 years? In this situation could God's words cause sweetness?
3. Allan said "*it is a sweet thing to get on the same page as God ... We need to eat His words ... we need God's conviction to touch our lives*". Ezekiel did what the Lord told him and the scroll tasted sweet then for seven days he experienced the pain of God for a broken creation when he visited the exiles [see Ezekiel 3:15]. So what was God teaching Ezekiel and us in regards to handling bad news – what should it do in regards to our relationship to the Lord? [Note there are 33 Chapters of judgement and 16 chapters of consolation in Ezekiel]?
4. Is there something in your life where you need God's help especially with regards to bad news? God wants to confront us with His word and He wants us to know His heart even when He confronts us with hard things . So can you share where God has allowed you to go through tough times but when you made a move towards God He showed His heart is good toward us always? Or do you know a story where bad news was turned to good news and someone's life was impacted for good?