



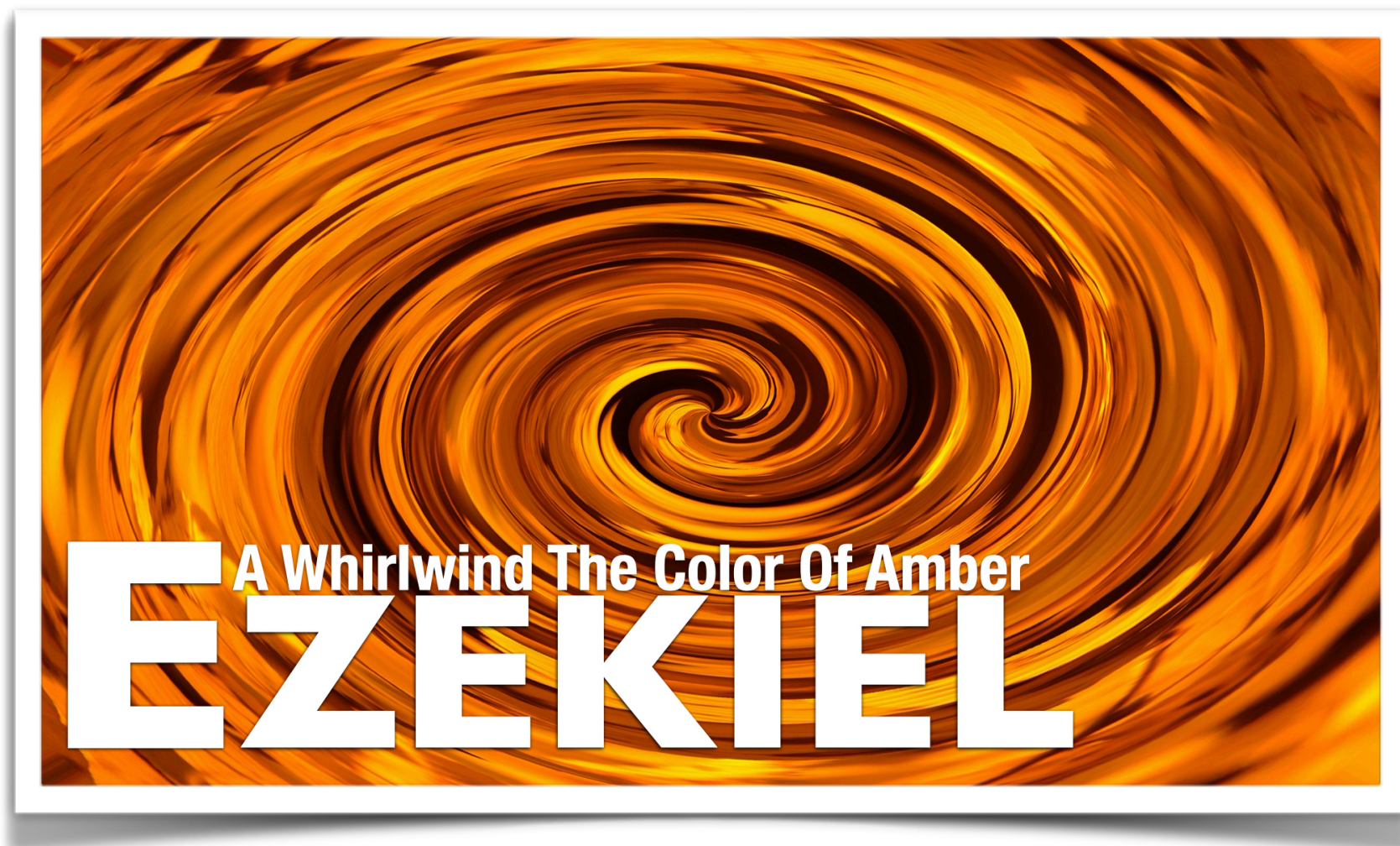
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**A Whirlwind The Color Of Amber**  
**EZEKIEL**





## Ezekiel 1.4-9

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Then I looked, and behold, a **whirlwind** was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the **color of amber**, out of the midst of the fire. Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.





## Ezekiel 1.4-9

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Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the **color of burnished bronze**. The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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### Who was Ezekiel?

- Ezekiel was a **priest** • “the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi” **1.3**
  - Priests were called to serve at **30** • “from **thirty years old** and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tabernacle of meeting.” **Num 4.3**
  - In the wilderness and the early days of Israel’s history priests worked moving, and serving in, the **tabernacle** • **Num 4.4ff, 1 Sam 1.3ff** (at Shiloh)
  - Following the construction of Solomon’s **temple** their duties were fulfilled at that place • **1 Kgs 8.1ff**





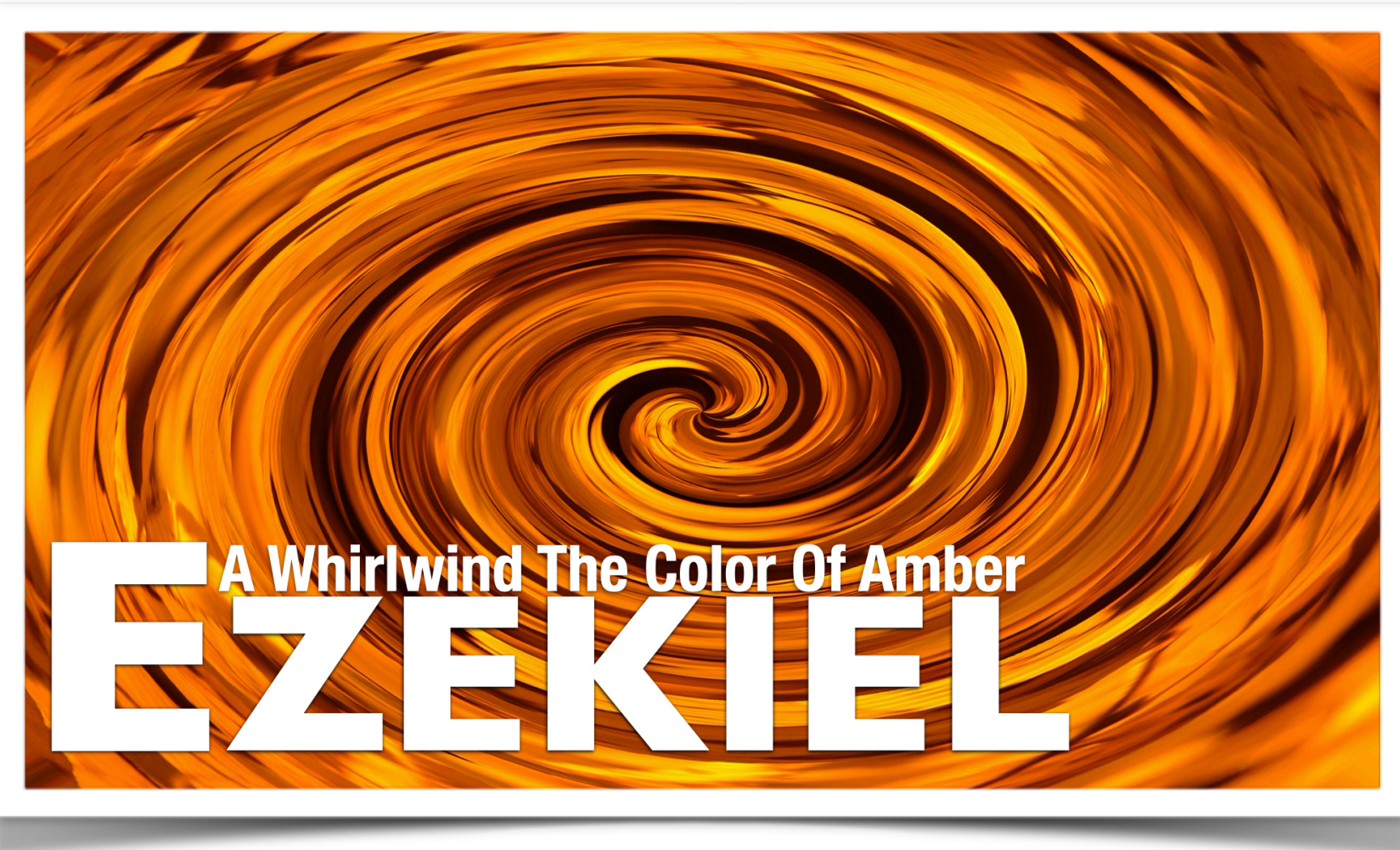
## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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### When did Ezekiel live?

- Ezekiel was born **before** the start of the Babylonian captivity • He lived & served **during the early days** of that captivity
  - He turned **30** during the **5th year** of Jehoiachin's exile (c. 592 BC) **1.1-2**
  - He was born, then, c. 623-622 BC • He would have been **16/17** in 606 BC
  - Because of captivity Ezekiel could **not** serve as priest • Remember, there was **no temple in Babylon** & the temple in Jerusalem would **soon be destroyed**
  - God's call, through **visions**, came to Ezekiel to be a **prophet, not a priest 1.1-2**
  - Remember, Judah would be in captivity for 70 years **Jer 25.11-12, 29.10**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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### Where did Ezekiel live?

- As Ezekiel opens the prophet-priest was “**by the River Chebar**”
  - Judah was conquered by **Babylon** • Those who remained (appx 1/3) were **brought to Babylon** • That included **King Jehoiachin 1.2, 2 Kgs 24.8ff**
  - Chebar was a canal off the Euphrates, part of an agricultural system known as “the rivers (or waters) of Babylon” **Ps 137.1** • the River was “**in the land of the Chaldeans,**” meaning Babylon **1.3**
  - Lands outside of Israel/Judah were considered unclean/defiled **4.13, Am 7.17**
  - Living near water would have allowed for purification **Lev 14-15, Num 19**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- Ezekiel lived with other Judean exiles, many of them upper class exiles
  - As a **rule**, they did **not** respond to negative prophetic warnings **Jer, Lam 2.3ff**
  - **Nor** were they keen on hearing/responding to Ezekiel's message
    - "Does he not speak parables?" **20.49** • they talked about Ezekiel, asked for Ezekiel to speak to them, heard his words, "but they do **not** do them," "with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain" **33.30ff**
    - They assumed that the captivity would **not last** and that Judah/Jerusalem would **not be destroyed**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- Ezekiel's wildly figurative language was designed to **capture their attention and prove** that what God prophesied from Moses to Jeremiah **would really happen**
- **Manasseh** > Amon > Josiah > Jehoahaz > Jehoiakim > Jehoiachin > Zedekiah
  - **“Because Manasseh king of Judah** has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), 12 therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: **“Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. 2 Kgs 21.11-15**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- **Manasseh** > Amon > Josiah > Jehoahaz > Jehoiakim > Jehoiachin > Zedekiah
  - “And I will stretch over **Jerusalem** the measuring line of **Samaria** and the plummet of the house of **Ahab**; I will wipe **Jerusalem** as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. 14 So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and **deliver them into the hand of their enemies**; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, 15 **because** they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.” **2 Kgs 21.11-15**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?

- Ezekiel's opening vision ...
  - Revealed **by God** • “heavens were opened and I saw visions of **God**” **1.1** • “the word of the Lord came **expressly** to Ezekiel” **1.3**
  - Ezekiel saw a **whirlwind** • a **great cloud** with **fire** inside • with **four living creatures** inside • **each with four faces** (man, lion, ox, eagle) • **each had four wings** • **like burnished bronze**, burning **coals of fire, torches** • **wheels** beside each creature • wheels **inside** of wheels • always moved **without turning 1.4ff**





## Ezekiel: Chapter One

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What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?

- Ezekiel's opening vision ...
  - These creatures were **beneath** the firmament • When they moved they made a **noise** “**like** ... many waters, **like** the voice of the Almighty ... **like** the noise of an army”
  - Ezekiel heard a voice above the firmament where there was “the **likeness** of a throne” • On the throne was a “**likeness** with the appearance of a man high above it”
  - Ezekiel saw his likeness “as it were, the **color of amber** with the appearance of **fire** ... with **brightness** all around ... like ... a **rainbow**”
  - “This was the appearance of the likeness of the **glory of the LORD.**” **1.28**





## Ezekiel: Chapter Two

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- When Ezekiel saw “the glory of the LORD” he fell on his face **1.28**
- And then Ezekiel “heard a voice of One speaking” **1.28**
  - The LORD told Ezekiel to “stand ... and I will speak to you” **2.1**
  - God **commissioned** Ezekiel: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.’ **2.3-10**





## Ezekiel: Chapter Two

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- And then Ezekiel “heard a voice of One speaking” **1.28**
  - As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. **2.3-10**





## Ezekiel: Chapter Two

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- And then Ezekiel “heard a voice of One speaking” **1.28**
  - But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you. Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. **2.3-10**





## Ezekiel: Overview

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- God's commission & Ezekiel's message:
  - Originated with **God, not** Ezekiel
  - **Visions, rarely interpreted** in context, call attention to the **uniqueness** and the **importance** of the divine message • Visions **introduce** what God's **going to say** • They are **not** the message itself • Thus, they are **similar** to miracles
  - This fantastic vision was a **theophany**, a **visible manifestation** of God
  - These types of vision were designed to call the **witness** — Isaiah (Is 6), John (Rev 4), here Ezekiel — to **serve** on God's behalf for the **benefit of others**





## Ezekiel: Overview

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**What did God, through Ezekiel, write? And to whom did he write it?**

- God's commission & Ezekiel's message:
  - God's vision to Ezekiel indicated **sovereignty/divine will • power • control**
  - It reflected God's **holiness • Judah's sin • God's justice • God's judgment**
  - The vision also tells us of God's **mercy • God's grace • because God acts •**  
God was **where** Judea was **then** -> He would **return** Judah to her land **later**
- Later prophecies in Ezekiel speak of the coming perfect **Shepherd**
  - The Shepherd would **protect** his flock • **deliver** his flock • **feed** his flock •  
**judge** his flock • **save** his flock • **cf Ezekiel 34, esp 34.11ff, 23-24, 30-31,**  
**37.24-25, 45.22, 46.6, Jer 30.9, Hos 3.5**



