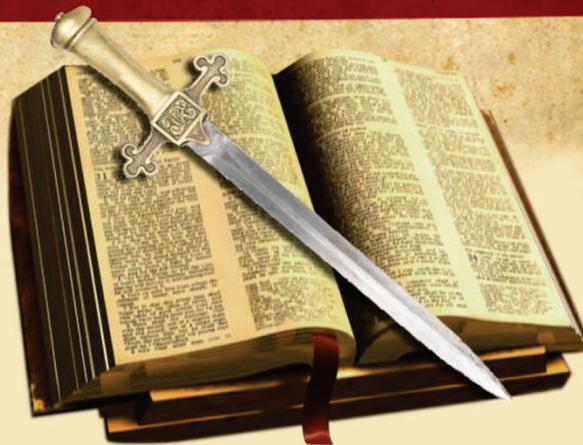


# Setting Your Heart

on the

# Kingdom



EZEKIEL

## *In Your Darkest Hour*

*(The Principle of Accompaniment and Restoration)*

Ezekiel 1:1-3

As the last rays of the Babylonian sun sank over the valley, so did the hearts of the Hebrew captives. Far to the west was their beloved land of Judah. And even farther away was the freedom they had once enjoyed. Gone were their joyous festivals and songs of Zion. Listen to the psalmist as he recorded the sorrow of their captivity: *“By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion. There upon the willows we hung our harps”* (Ps. 137). Israel had played the fool with their covenant, and now they were paying the horrific price of sin. ***Yet, even in their punishment and dejection, God had not forsaken them.*** For in the midst of their captivity, He sent His prophet. Ezekiel shared their grief, but more importantly, he heard from heaven! ***Through him, God interpreted their dilemma and spoke hope for the future.***

There exists a principle in God’s Kingdom that very few discover. ***The Lord accompanies us, not only in our great missions and victories, but also in our failures.*** Certainly, without God’s presence, you’ll never accomplish your assignment on earth. But listen carefully. Without His presence, you’ll never survive the dark hours of personal defeat...especially when it’s your own fault! When both the devil and your flesh condemn you, that’s when you need God the most.

Your darkest hour may be a **bitter divorce** that leaves you with nothing but emotional pain and financial ruin. It may be a **degenerating disease** that threatens your future or even your life. Possibly your dark hours are stretching into endless years behind the bars of a cold **prison cell**. Like the Hebrews exiled in a foreign land, your song may be drowning in the depths of grief and sorrow. ***Yet know this, God is with you...even in your darkest hour.*** Just as He sent Ezekiel to bring perspective to captive Israel, so the Lord sends friends, family, or a pastor to give you hope for the future. ***Let God turn your darkness into light.*** Receive words of life. Learn from your mistakes. Repent and recommit your life to the Lord. Then He will strengthen and uphold you (Is. 41:10). ***Then He will restore you to His glorious Kingdom.***

***Next: The Kingdom of God in Daniel...The Fire Walkers***

