

Ezekiel, the “Son of Man,” and the Voice of the Father

A narrative Bible-study reflection on Ezekiel and how Christians may hear echoes of instruction fulfilled in Jesus Christ

The Narrative of Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel opens in exile, beside the Kebar River, where a priest far from Jerusalem sees the glory of the Lord. The vision is overwhelming: heavenly living creatures, wheels within wheels, fire, brightness, and a throne above the expanse. In that setting, God addresses Ezekiel again and again as “son of man,” a phrase that emphasizes his humanity, weakness, and representative role before the holy God who speaks.

Ezekiel is not sent as a religious celebrity, but as a mortal servant commissioned by God. He must stand, listen, eat the scroll of God’s word, speak to a rebellious house, become a watchman, act out signs of judgment, lament over nations, expose false shepherds, and finally proclaim restoration. His ministry moves from warning to hope: Jerusalem will fall because of sin, yet God will cleanse His people, give them a new heart, breathe life into dry bones, gather the scattered, and dwell among them again.

For Christians, Ezekiel’s repeated title “son of man” should first be read in its original setting: Ezekiel is a human prophet commissioned by God. Yet when Jesus later calls Himself “the Son of Man,” the title reaches its fullness in Him. This study presents Christ as the true and greater Son of Man who perfectly obeyed the Father’s instruction: He stood in the Father’s will, received and spoke the Father’s word, warned the rebellious, bore judgment, rose again, and brings promised renewal.

KJV foundation: Ezekiel 2:1 records the instruction: “And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.” Christ’s obedience appears clearly in John 12:49-50: “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” John 5:19 adds, “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do.”

Detailed “Son of Man” Scriptures in Ezekiel

The phrase appears throughout Ezekiel as God’s address to the prophet. The table below lists the principal passages by chapter grouping, with a careful Christian reflection on how the Father’s instructions to Ezekiel may foreshadow or echo the mission of Jesus Christ.

Scripture references	Main instruction or setting	Possible Christ-centered reflection
Ezekiel 2:1, 3, 6, 8	Commission and courage	God tells the son of man to stand, listen, not fear, and receive what He gives. Christ obeyed this instruction by standing in the Father’s will, hearing the Father’s word, and speaking faithfully among the rebellious: “whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” (John 12:50, KJV).
Ezekiel 3:1, 3, 4, 10, 17, 25	Eat the scroll and become a watchman	The son of man must internalize God’s message before speaking it. Christ obeyed this instruction perfectly by speaking only what the Father commanded: “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:49, KJV).
Ezekiel 4:1, 16; 5:1; 6:2; 7:2	Sign-acts of judgment	Ezekiel embodies judgment through symbolic acts. Christ obeyed this instruction by bearing judgment itself, submitting to the Father’s will: “nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42, KJV).
Ezekiel 8:5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 17	Seeing hidden abominations	The son of man is shown secret sin in the temple. Christ obeyed this instruction by exposing hidden sin and restoring reverence for His Father’s house: “Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise” (John 2:16, KJV).
Ezekiel 11:2, 4, 15	Prophecy against false confidence	The son of man confronts misleading leaders. Christ obeyed this instruction by rebuking false confidence and calling Israel’s leaders to repentance: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” (Matthew 23:13, KJV).
Ezekiel 12:2, 3, 9, 18, 22, 27	Signs of exile and delayed judgment	The son of man acts out exile and answers those who doubt God’s word. Christ obeyed this instruction by warning that judgment would come at the appointed time: “Heaven and earth

		shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35, KJV).
Ezekiel 13:2, 17; 14:3, 13; 15:2	False prophets and useless vines	The son of man condemns false prophecy and fruitlessness. Christ obeyed this instruction by exposing false religion and requiring living fruit: “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away” (John 15:2, KJV).
Ezekiel 16:2; 17:2; 20:3, 4, 27, 46	Israel’s story, parables, and covenant rebellion	The son of man retells Israel’s unfaithfulness. Christ obeyed this instruction by using parables and judgments to expose covenant rebellion and call hearers back to God: “A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen” (Mark 12:1, KJV).
Ezekiel 21:2, 6, 9, 12, 14, 19, 28	The sword of judgment	The son of man groans and proclaims the sword. Christ obeyed this instruction by announcing judgment over Jerusalem while submitting to suffering: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often would I have gathered thy children together” (Matthew 23:37, KJV) and “not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39, KJV).
Ezekiel 22:2, 18, 24; 23:2, 36; 24:2, 16, 25	Jerusalem’s guilt and personal sorrow	The son of man names sin plainly and endures signs of grief. Christ obeyed this instruction by naming sin without compromise and bearing grief more deeply than any prophet: “A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3, KJV).
Ezekiel 25:2; 26:2; 27:2; 28:2, 12, 21; 29:2, 18; 30:2, 21; 31:2; 32:2, 18	Oracles against the nations	The son of man speaks God’s judgment over proud nations. Christ obeyed this instruction as the Son of Man with authority to judge: “And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man” (John 5:27, KJV).
Ezekiel 33:2, 7, 10, 12, 24, 30	The watchman renewed	The son of man is appointed watchman again. Christ obeyed this instruction as the faithful witness who warns, saves, and gathers those who hear His voice: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27, KJV).
Ezekiel 34:2; 35:2; 36:1, 17; 37:3, 9, 11, 16	Shepherds, mountains, new heart, and dry bones	The son of man proclaims restoration: new heart, new spirit, resurrection life. Christ obeyed this instruction by fulfilling restoration as Shepherd and resurrection Lord: “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11, KJV) and “I am the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25, KJV).

Ezekiel 38:2, 14; 39:1, 17	Final conflict and God's victory	The son of man announces God's triumph over hostile powers. Christ obeyed this instruction by accomplishing the Father's victory and bringing every enemy under God's reign: "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet" (1 Corinthians 15:25, KJV).
Ezekiel 40:4; 43:7, 10, 18; 44:5; 47:6	Temple vision and restored worship	The son of man is shown the future temple, measured holiness, and life-giving waters. Christ obeyed this instruction by becoming the true meeting place of God and man and the source of living water: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19, KJV) and "out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38, KJV).

Reading Ezekiel Toward Christ

In Ezekiel, "son of man" first addresses Ezekiel as a mortal prophet among exiles. Yet Scripture reveals patterns that reach fullness in Christ. Ezekiel is told, "Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee" (Ezekiel 2:1, KJV). Christ fulfills that instruction by standing in perfect submission to the Father, receiving and speaking the Father's word, and completing the Father's work: "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do" (John 5:19, KJV).

Ezekiel's commission forms a pattern of divine instruction: receive the word, bear witness, confront sin, suffer faithfully, and announce restoration. In Jesus Christ, the true and greater Son of Man, that pattern becomes redemption. What Ezekiel rehearses in prophetic sign and speech, Christ fulfills in incarnation, cross, resurrection, and coming kingdom.

KJV Passages for the Christ-Centered Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-2: "And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me." This establishes the prophetic pattern: the son of man stands by divine enabling, hears the voice of God, and receives instruction before speaking.

John 12:49-50: "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said

unto me, so I speak.” This should be used as the clearest New Testament statement that Christ obeyed the Father’s instruction in speech.

John 5:19: “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” This passage should guide the wording throughout the study: Christ’s obedience was not partial or symbolic only; He acted in perfect unity with the Father.

Suggested Study Approach

- Read each listed passage in its full chapter context before applying it to Christ.
- Ask first: What did God command Ezekiel to do or say?
- Then ask: How does Jesus fulfill this pattern more completely?
- Finally ask: What does this reveal about the Father’s holiness, mercy, judgment, and promise of restoration?

This approach keeps Ezekiel’s original prophetic message intact while reading toward Christ. Each Christ-centered reference should name Ezekiel’s instruction, state how Christ obeyed it, and support the point with a KJV quotation when Scripture directly shows Christ’s obedience to the Father.

Christ, the Obedient Son of Man

Ezekiel’s “son of man” commission finds its fullest fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Ezekiel was commanded to stand, hear, receive, speak, warn, suffer, and proclaim restoration. Christ obeyed this pattern as the true and greater Son of Man. Ezekiel was told, “Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee” (Ezekiel 2:1, KJV). Christ stood wholly within the Father’s will, not from independent ambition, but in complete submission to the One who sent Him.

Ezekiel received God’s word before speaking it. Christ obeyed this instruction perfectly by speaking in unity with the Father: “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:49, KJV). He also declared, “whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” (John 12:50, KJV).

Ezekiel was appointed watchman to warn the rebellious house. Christ fulfilled that role by warning sinners truthfully and becoming the Shepherd who gives life to His sheep. Ezekiel bore signs of judgment; Christ bore judgment itself. His obedience reached its deepest

expression in Gethsemane: “nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42, KJV).

Ezekiel proclaimed cleansing, a new heart, and life for dry bones. Christ accomplished that restoration. He is not only the messenger of renewal, but the One through whom renewal comes: “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (John 10:11, KJV), and “I am the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25, KJV).

Ezekiel was truly addressed as “son of man” within his prophetic calling, but Jesus Christ is the obedient Son of Man in fullness. He stood where the Father placed Him, heard what the Father spoke, said what the Father commanded, warned with truth, suffered with submission, bore judgment with love, and opened restoration through resurrection power. “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do” (John 5:19, KJV). In Him, the instruction given to Ezekiel reaches its complete and saving fulfillment.