THE ETERNAL INSTRUCTION TO THE SON OF MAN

How the Voice of the Father to Ezekiel Provided the Blueprint and Divine Commands for the Incarnate Mission of Jesus Christ

Chapter 1: The Divine Decree to the Kebar River

The book of Ezekiel opens in the bleakness of captivity, beside the muddy waters of the Kebar River, where a priest far removed from the architectural majesty of Jerusalem's temple suddenly sees the heavens opened and beholds the overwhelming, brilliant glory of the Lord. The description is packed with heavy, complex, and unearthly realities: living creatures flashing like burning coals, wheels within wheels intersecting at divine geometric coordinates, an all-consuming fire infusing the atmosphere with amber brightness, and a firmament like terrible crystal stretched out above their heads. High above this cosmic alignment, resting upon a throne resembling sapphire stone, sits a form that bears the likeness of a man, surrounded by the radiant bow that appears in the cloud on a rainy day. Yet, when the voice of God speaks out from this terrible, blazing canopy of holiness, it does not address the prophet by his personal name, nor by his priestly lineage. Instead, God addresses him by an evocative, recurring title: "Son of man."

This specific phrase appears nearly one hundred times throughout the book of Ezekiel. In its initial, raw exilic setting, it serves as an explicit, undeniable marker of Ezekiel's creaturely frailty, his absolute mortality, and his humble position before the sovereign God of heaven. He is a mere speck of dust positioned in front of the infinite throne of light. However, from a deeper Christian scriptural paradigm, this title and the specific instructions tied to it possess a far more sweeping, eternal purpose. The commands laid out to Ezekiel were not merely intended for a single, isolated human priest in Babylon. Rather, the instructions given to Ezekiel as the "Son of man" served as a historical foreshadowing and a formal, legal blueprint delivered by God the Father, outlining the precise rules, restrictions, behaviors, and actions that would be required of His own divine Son, Jesus Christ, when He would eventually condescend to empty Himself, take on human flesh, and step onto the earth as the ultimate "Son of Man."

By examining this text through this Christological lens, the Book of Ezekiel shifts from a historical record of judgment into an instructional handbook of the incarnation itself. The Father was laying down the path of perfect human obedience in advance. Ezekiel was required to embody these rules in a limited, flawed, and symbolic capacity; Jesus Christ, by contrast, would read these identical instructions as His

personal, divine marching orders. He would look into the scroll of Ezekiel and see the exact parameters of His earthly life, His speech, His interaction with the rebellious, His physical bearing of judgment, and His ultimate conquest over death and the grave. It was a formal communication of the Father's absolute expectations for the human Messiah.

> *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 primary instruction establishes the immutable pattern of the Son of Man's earthly mission. The mortal prophet cannot even stand under his own power; he must be enabled by the incoming Spirit of God. This divine instruction acts as a direct, structural prophecy of the exact submissive posture that Jesus Christ would maintain before the Father. When Jesus Christ entered into human history, He did not walk in independent, self-asserted human ambition. He did not execute works out of an isolated human will, nor did He establish a separate kingdom based on individual preference. Instead, He perfectly bound His physical body, His everyday choices, and His entire ministry to the exact instructions that the Father had pre-written and decreed through the ancient prophets. He stood upon His feet because the Father commanded Him to stand, and He listened with an open, perfectly obedient ear to every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.

Chapter 2: The Legal Framework of Mediatorial Submission

To fully comprehend how the instructions given to Ezekiel were actually the Father's operational orders to the incarnate Christ, we must align them with the explicit legal framework recorded in the New Testament. The Gospel of John provides the definitive theological keys to unlock this relationship. Jesus explicitly reveals that His speech, His movements, and His miraculous works are not self-generated, but are the flawless execution of the commandments He received directly from God the Father. Christ’s submission was not an afterthought; it was the absolute core of His identity as the messianic Son of Man.

Consider the immense weight of Christ's own declaration regarding His spoken words:

> *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 is not merely a statement of casual agreement; it is a declaration of absolute, structural conformity to a pre-existing mandate. Just as Ezekiel was commanded to eat the scroll and speak nothing less and nothing more than the exact characters written upon it, so Jesus Christ bound His tongue to the Father’s precise verbal blueprint. Every syllable uttered by the Savior during His earthly walk—whether it was a gentle word of healing to a broken outcast or a fiery sermon of denunciation against hypocritical religious rulers—was an act of direct compliance with the Father's instructions. Christ looked back at the

commands delivered to the Old Testament 'son of man' and realized that He was the legal Executor of those very words.

Furthermore, Jesus reinforced this absolute dependency when He answered His critics in the temple courts, saying:

> *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 completely refutes any notion that Christ's obedience was partial, nominal, or merely symbolic. The Son of God willingly bound Himself to do nothing of Himself. His entire human existence was a mirrors-edge reflection of the Father's instructions. When the Father commanded Ezekiel to act out sign-acts of heavy judgment, to sit in silence, to weep bitterly, or to turn his face toward specific regions, the Father was projecting a vivid, historical silhouette of what His own Son would look like when He walked the dusty roads of Judea and Galilee. The instructions given to the ancient prophet were a precise, living script that Christ perfectly read, internalized, and manifested in His flesh.

Chapter 3: The Internalization of the Prophetic Mandate

In the third chapter of Ezekiel, the instruction from the Father takes a deeply visceral and physical turn. The prophet is not merely told to memorize words; he is commanded to ingest them. This striking, dramatic scene represents the total consumption and internalization of the divine word before any external proclamation can take place. The text records a strange and marvelous transaction between the throne and the servant:

> *Ezekiel 3:1-3 — "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness."*

This explicit command was the Father's instructional template for the internal life of the coming Messiah. When Jesus Christ was born into this world, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, He entered into a human body that had to grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. How did the young Jesus discover His true identity, His specific path, and the harrowing details of His future crucifixion? He discovered them by opening the scrolls of the law and the prophets. As the young Christ read the words of Ezekiel, the Holy Spirit illuminated the text, showing Him that the title "Son of man" was written primarily about Him. He ate the scroll. He filled His belly and His bowels with the heavy, unyielding judgments and glorious promises of the Father's word.

The sweetness of the scroll in the mouth, followed by its bitter weight in the stomach, perfectly mirrors the dual nature of Christ's earthly assignment. To do the Father's will was His meat and drink; it was

sweeter than honey. Yet, the substance of that will involved bearing the sins of a rebellious, hard-hearted world, a task that would cause Him to sweat great drops of blood in the dark agony of Gethsemane. Christ did not shrink from this internalization. He did not seek to alter a single phrase or dilute a single warning. He consumed the entire scroll of the Old Testament scriptures, ensuring that every jot and tittle was woven into the very fabric of His human consciousness, so that when He spoke, it was not an independent human voice speaking, but the pure, unadulterated word of the Father flowing forth from a perfectly prepared vessel.

Chapter 4: The Embodiment of Judgment and Personal Grief

One of the most harrowing aspects of Ezekiel's calling is his instruction to perform bizarre, grueling, and physically agonizing sign-acts to represent the impending destruction of Jerusalem. He was commanded to take a tile, portray the city upon it, and lay siege to it. He was ordered to lie bound upon his left side for three hundred and ninety days, and then upon his right side for forty days, physically bearing the iniquity of the house of Israel and the house of Judah. He was commanded to eat his bread by weight and with water by measure, experiencing the terrifying physical reality of famine. He was even commanded to take a sharp knife, shave his hair and his beard, and burn a third part, smite a third part with a knife, and scatter a third part to the wind.

Why would a loving Heavenly Father require such extreme, agonizing performance from a loyal priest? The answer is clear: the Father was writing an explicit, physical prophecy of the ultimate suffering that Jesus Christ would endure. Ezekiel bore the iniquity of Israel symbolically, trapped in cords on his side. But Christ, the true Son of Man, would bear the literal, crushing weight of the entire world's iniquity upon the wooden cross of Calvary. Ezekiel suffered hunger, confinement, and public humiliation as a sign; Christ suffered the absolute abandonment of the cross, the piercing of His hands and feet, and the literal pouring out of His soul unto death. The instructions to Ezekiel were a detailed preview of the cross, an advance notice of the structural specifications of the atonement.

This structural alignment between the Father's instruction and Christ's physical obedience shines brightly in the Garden of Gethsemane. Faced with the immediate prospect of drinking the cup of divine wrath, Christ's human flesh trembled, yet He fell upon His face and aligned Himself perfectly with the ancient script:

> *Luke 22:42 — "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."*

Furthermore, the Father commanded Ezekiel to endure the sudden, heartbreaking loss of his beloved wife—referred to as "the desire of thine eyes"—and forbade him from engaging in any public mourning or weeping. He was instructed to "forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men" (Ezekiel 24:17). This devastating personal restriction was a direct instruction to Christ regarding the absolute suppression of personal comfort and personal grief in the execution of the redemptive plan. When Christ hung upon the cross, watching His earthly mother weep, experiencing the ultimate sorrow of being forsaken by His God, He did not launch a bitter complaint or abandon His post. He stood

as the true watchman, absorbing the grief, subduing His personal agony, and fulfilling the precise standard of the silent, enduring servant who puts the Father's glory above all human emotion.

Chapter 5: The Overturning of the False Shepherds

In Ezekiel chapter thirty-four, the Father issues a blistering, uncompromising indictment against the corrupt religious and political rulers of Israel, who had used their positions of authority to feed themselves while leaving the flock of God scattered, starved, and vulnerable to predatory beasts. The text thunders with divine fury: "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" (Ezekiel 34:2). The son of man is strictly instructed to prophesy against these false leaders and to announce that God Himself will step down into history, search out His sheep, and deliver them from the mouths of those who exploit them.

This ancient instruction directly governed the public ministry of Jesus Christ. When He arrived in Jerusalem, He found a religious system that had become a den of thieves, controlled by a proud, greedy elite who bound heavy burdens upon men's shoulders but refused to move them with one of their fingers. Christ looked at the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees through the lens of Ezekiel's instructions. He recognized them immediately as the very false shepherds the Father had commanded Him to confront and overthrow. He did not speak soft words of empty compromise to them; instead, He unleashed the exact, terrifying woes that had been pre-arranged by the Father:

> *Matthew 23:13 — "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."*

In complete compliance with the Father's decree to replace the false shepherds, Jesus stepped forward and declared His true, cosmic identity, explicitly matching the restoration promises of Ezekiel:

> *John 10:11 — "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."*

By comparing these texts, we see that Christ was not inventing a new theology on the fly; He was actively, meticulously executing the specific operational orders laid out in Ezekiel 34. The Father had commanded that the true Son of Man must expose religious corruption, protect the weak, gather the scattered, and lay down His own life to purchase the safety of the flock. Christ's every confrontation in the temple courts was a direct expression of this prophetic mandate, proving His absolute alignment with the Father's pre-ordained instructions.

Chapter 6: The Proclamation of Resurrection and the New Covenant

Perhaps the most famous and visually stunning instruction given to Ezekiel occurs in the desolate valley of dry bones. The prophet is set down in the midst of a valley that is completely full of bones, bleached white, scattered, and entirely dead. The Father asks him a question that tests the limits of human faith: "Son of man, can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3). Ezekiel answers with profound humility: "O Lord God, thou knowest." Then comes the absolute, impossible command: "Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord... Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live."

This scene was a literal preview and a direct instruction from the Father to Christ regarding the mechanics of the New Covenant and the reality of the future resurrection. The dry bones represented the house of Israel, dead in trespasses and sins, entirely unable to regenerate themselves. The Father was showing Christ exactly what His word would be required to do. When Jesus Christ stood before the rock-hewn tomb of Lazarus, who had been dead four days and whose body had already begun to decay, He was face-to-face with the practical application of Ezekiel 37. He did not doubt. He did not hesitate. He spoke with the exact, life-giving authority that the Father had instructed the Son of Man to possess:

> *John 11:25 — "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

When Christ cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!", the dead man moved, the dry bones rattled, flesh came upon them, and he stepped out into the light of day. This was a localized manifestation of the wider, cosmic promise that the Father had commanded the Son of Man to unlock. Furthermore, the Father had explicitly promised through Ezekiel that He would cleanse His people, take away their stony hearts, and give them a heart of flesh, putting His own Spirit within them (Ezekiel 36:26-27). Christ perfectly implemented this instruction by sending the Holy Spirit upon the early church on the Day of Pentecost, transforming spiritually dead corpses into a living, vibrant, and exceedingly great army.

Chapter 7: The Final Victory and True Temple Worship

The closing chapters of the book of Ezekiel present an incredibly dense, meticulous, and expansive vision of a future temple, measured out down to the smallest cubit by a heavenly messenger with a line of flax and a measuring reed. The prophet is led through gates, courts, chambers, and altars, observing the absolute structure of divine holiness. Finally, he sees the glory of the God of Israel returning from the way of the east, and His voice is like a noise of many waters, and the earth shines with His glory. The Father speaks to him from the temple and declares: "Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever" (Ezekiel 43:7).

This complex, highly detailed architectural vision was not intended to be a blueprinted command for physical stones and mortar in a literal earthly desert. Rather, it was the Father's instructional design delivered to Christ, mapping out the spiritual architecture of the true Church, which is the mystical Body of Christ. When Jesus walked into the physical, stone-and-mortar temple in Jerusalem, He looked at its corrupt commercialization and announced its complete replacement. He understood that He Himself was the true, ultimate Temple that Ezekiel had seen from afar:

> *John 2:19 — "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

Christ knew that His own resurrected body would become the permanent meeting place between God and man, the true site of the throne, and the source of the life-giving waters. Ezekiel had watched a miraculous river flow out from under the threshold of the temple house, running eastward, growing deeper and deeper until it became a river that could not be passed over, healing the desert and bringing abundant life wherever it flowed (Ezekiel 47:1-5). Christ looked at that instructional blueprint and explicitly claimed it as His personal work, crying out in the temple courts:

> *John 7:38 — "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."*

The final victory over Gog and Magog described in Ezekiel 38 and 39—where the hostile, rebellious nations of the earth are completely broken and brought to absolute ruin by the direct intervention of God—served as the Father's mandate to Christ regarding His ultimate, cosmic authority to judge the living and the dead. The Father instructed the Son of Man that He must reign until every enemy is brought into complete subjection under His feet. Christ perfectly accepted this command, layout, and destiny, knowing that through His sacrificial death, His triumphant resurrection, and His glorious second coming, every principality, power, and spiritual wickedness in high places would be completely dethroned and broken forever.

Conclusion: The Complete and Saving Fulfillment

In summary, the title "Son of man" given to the prophet Ezekiel was never an isolated or historical anomaly. It was a deliberate, legal foreshadowing and a formal transmission of instructions from God the Father to Jesus Christ, setting the exact parameters for His earthly life as the ultimate, incarnate Son of Man. Ezekiel was the imperfect shadow; Christ was the perfect, substance-filled reality. Ezekiel stood on his feet by the temporary enabling of the Spirit; Christ stood in permanent, unshakeable, and flawless unity with the Father. Ezekiel ate the scroll of prophecy and found it sweet and bitter; Christ lived out the scroll of prophecy, fulfilling every single line with meticulous precision and absorbing its ultimate bitterness on the cross.

Every instruction laid down in the ancient text—whether it was to expose secret abominations in the temple, to confront false shepherds, to act out signs of crushing judgment, to speak words of absolute truth to a rebellious audience, to command dry bones to live, or to map out the dimensions of holy

worship—was a direct command that Jesus Christ received, accepted, and perfectly executed. He did nothing of Himself. He spoke exactly as the Father taught Him. He walked the path of absolute, submissive human obedience, transforming a prophetic blueprint into an accomplished reality of cosmic redemption. In Jesus Christ, the eternal instruction delivered to Ezekiel reaches its complete, glorious, and saving fulfillment, proving that all scripture testifies of Him, His cross, His resurrection, and His everlasting Kingdom.

Appendix: The Blueprint of Instruction — Scriptural Reference Table

The following comprehensive table organizes the key instructional passages delivered to Ezekiel as the "Son of man" alongside the specific New Testament passages demonstrating how Jesus Christ treated these commands as His personal operational blueprint, fulfilling them with absolute obedience before God the Father.

Ezekiel Scripture Reference	Main Instruction & Context	Christ-Centered Fulfillment & KJV Reference
Ezekiel 2:1, 3, 6, 8	Commission and Courage: The son of man is commanded to stand, listen, banish fear, and receive the words of the throne.	Christ perfectly executed this by standing entirely within the Father's will and speaking exactly what was commanded: "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 Watchman Calling: The son of man must fully ingest, digest, and internalize God's message before speaking.	Christ lived out this instruction by limiting His speech to the Father's exact verbal blueprint: "the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say" (John 12:49, KJV).
Ezekiel 4:1, 16; 5:1; 6:2; 7:2	Sign-Acts of Divine Judgment: The son of man must physically embody the crushing reality of judgment and corporate iniquity.	Christ fulfilled this by physically bearing the real, literal weight of our sins on the cross, yielding His human will: "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42, KJV).
Ezekiel 8:5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 17	Exposing Secret Abominations: The son of man is instructed to dig through walls and expose hidden idolatry inside the sanctuary.	Christ executed this by physically purging the defiled temple courts and demanding holiness for His Father's house: "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 is ordered to speak out against corrupt leaders who give wicked counsel.	Christ fulfilled this by boldly confronting the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees, exposing their spiritual blindness: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (Matthew 23:13, KJV).
Ezekiel 12:2, 3, 9, 18, 22, 27	Signs of Exile and Swift Judgment: The son of man acts out captivity and answers mockers who say God's word fails.	Christ executed this instruction by warning of Jerusalem's historical fall and guaranteeing the absolute reliability of His words: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35, KJV).

Ezekiel Scripture Reference	Main Instruction & Context	Christ-Centered Fulfillment & KJV Reference
Ezekiel 13:2, 17; 14:3, 13; 15:2	False Prophets and Useless Vines: The son of man is told to condemn deceptive prophets and declare the fruitlessness of the vine.	Christ perfectly enforced this standard by demanding true, living fruit and warning of the absolute removal of dead branches: "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	Covenant Rebellion and Parables: The son of man is instructed to lay bare Israel's history of rebellion through riddles and allegories.	Christ used detailed parables to expose the rebellion of the vineyard keepers and call hearts back to the Father's standard: "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 is commanded to groan bitterly and announce the sharp sword of divine execution.	Christ perfectly obeyed this by weeping over Jerusalem's coming ruin while submissively yielding His body to suffer under that very sword: "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 Silent Grief: The son of man names sin plainly and must suppress personal grief at his wife's death.	Christ flawlessly executed this by identifying sin without compromise and silently enduring the ultimate sorrow on the cross: "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 Proud Nations: The son of man is instructed to turn his face and proclaim judgment over heathen nations.	Christ accepted this mandate, possessing absolute authority from the Father to execute cosmic judgment because of His humanity: "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's Renewal: The son of man is re-established as the responsible watchman who warns the wicked and saves souls.	Christ serves as the ultimate, flawless Watchman and Witness, gathering, knowing, and guarding all 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, New Hearts, and Dry Bones: The son of man is commanded to preach restoration, spiritual resurrection, and a new heart.	Christ directly fulfilled this instruction by acting as the Good Shepherd and the source of resurrection life: "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, KJV) and "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25, KJV).

Ezekiel Scripture Reference	Main Instruction & Context	Christ-Centered Fulfillment & KJV Reference
Ezekiel 38:2, 14; 39:1, 17	Final Conflict and Overthrow: The son of man is commanded to announce God's absolute victory over the global powers of Gog.	Christ executes this decree by subduing every rebellious earthly power and bringing all enemies under His feet: "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	The Temple Vision and Living Water: The son of man is shown the measures of holiness and the healing river flowing from the threshold.	Christ perfectly manifested this by becoming the true Temple of God and the personal source of everlasting, life-giving waters: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19, KJV).