"God looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing unto Jehovah as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have any being. Let my meditation be sweet unto him: I will rejoice in Jehovah"
of Israel. The work of exposing people's sins was a hard job. Most of the people hated the prophets for exposing their sin as people hated Jesus (John 7:7) and all who do the same today (John 15:19ff). Ezekiel performed his God ordained tasks faithfully. The prophet of God exposed the sins of Zedekiah (Ezekiel 21:25), the sins of the elders (Ezekiel 8:11), prophets (Ezekiel 13:3), priests (Ezekiel 8:16), and the princes (civil rulers) (Ezekiel 11:1-2). Those who feel no sting of shame will continue comfortably in their sins. The Lord commands his prophet saying, "10 You, son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities, and let them measure the pattern" (Ezekiel 43:10-12).

Practical Application
What can we learn from the life of Ezekiel? Jesus was once asked by a lawyer what the greatest commandment was. The Lord replies that man is to love God and love his neighbor as his own self (see Matthew 22:34-36). The duty of the prophets and apostles of old was an exercise in love toward others. Ezekiel's God ordained tasks was to shame Judah of their sinful conduct so that they may repent and be saved. Salvation comes to people of all generations by gospel preaching that exposes and shames man's inner works (see Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 4:12). Unfortunately, as the gospel is being presented many are offended (Matthew 15:12ff and John 7:7) and make the lives of the righteous miserable (see 1 Corinthians 4:9-13; 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 and John 16:1-4). The watchmen of the Lord's church must press on in their work no matter the consequences (see Luke 17:1-3; Acts 18:6; 20:26-27 and Revelation 3:2). The souls of men are at stake!

People of every generation are given a choice in life when introduced to the gospel (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). The preacher cannot be concerned about the pain he brings to his own life (see Matthew 15:12-14). He must remember that he has a duty to perform (Romans 1:14-16 and 2 Timothy 4:1-4). No one said this duty was easy. The Apostle Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). The apostles of Jesus Christ were often treated very rudely and painfully persecuted (see 1 Corinthians 4:9-13). The prophets and apostles, though doing God's ordained work, were not immune to discouragement. Paul needed the encouragement of the Lord (Acts 23:11 and 2 Timothy 4:17). Paul made request to the Ephesians saints that they may pray for him to not cower down when he needed to be bold and say the necessary things to people (see Ephesians 6:19-20).

Ezekiel seems to never waiver in his God ordained tasks to preach. Jeremiah had to be brought along slowly yet Ezekiel does as he is commanded at each turn of the calendar day. Though God gave the prophet very difficult tasks of lying on his side and bearing the sins of Israel for hundreds of days he does so faithfully. Though God would take the prophet's wife and use him as a sign to the people he followed faithfully through with God's plan. God told Ezekiel that people would look down their nose and make angry faces at him while he preached. Ezekiel understood what God expected and faithfully performed his God ordained preaching of exposing sin in men's lives. Our hearts go out to Ezekiel for all that he went through in this life and as he performed the necessary work as God had commanded him. There are many preachers today faithfully performing their God ordained work in very trying circumstances. Let us remember these men in our prayers and pray that they always have the attitude of Ezekiel. Secondly, remember that we all have the responsibility to preach and expose sin in men's life. Let us all end our lives by saying, as did Ezekiel, "And I did as I was commanded."