

welfare depends on ones initiative and choice is illustrative of the major question raised by the O.T. Book of Ezekiel. The most distinctive achievement of Ezekiel is to break with previous Jewish thought that the individual is important only as he is part of the nation. Ezekiel says that the individual is important for himself, in God's eyes too, but that each person has some say-so, some choice, in determining his way in life and in a true sense does choose his destiny.

4. This theme of Scripture and text is better understood if we have first a picture in our minds of the whole Bible Book of Ezekiel, so let's survey it briefly.

I. History, authorship and outline of Ezekiel, and why this particular message of our Scriptural selection seems the key to the Book.

1. Our knowledge of Ezekiel is limited to the information in his writings. He was a priest, who probably had officiated in the temple worship of the Jews at Jerusalem, and was thoroughly familiar with the temple. As a member of the upper classes he was deported to Babylon when that nation captured Jerusalem in 597 B.C. He was probably in the prime of life at that time, and

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