

HE WAS A MAN OF “VISION”

PROPHET EZEKIEL was one of the four major Prophets of the Old Testament. He grew up in Jerusalem in the 6th century B.C. as a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Ezekiel was involved in the Babylonian exile in 597 B.C. and it was while living in captivity that Ezekiel began to distinguish himself with his gift of prophecy.

Ezekiel is well-known for his vivid visions, which often had Christian connotations. His famous vision of the “valley of the dry bones” has long been viewed as a foreshadowing of our Lord’s teaching on the resurrection of the dead. He later predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, where only those marked with a Greek letter resembling a cross, would be spared.

Depicted on the cover of today’s Church Bulletin is yet another of Ezekiel’s visions. While praying at the banks of the river Chebar, the Prophet saw the heavens open up. A cloud appeared, surrounded by images of four living creatures. One had the face of a MAN, the second a LION, the third a CALF and the fourth an EAGLE. The Church has interpreted this as being a revelation of Christ, with the mysterious figures showing that He was both God and Man (as symbolized by the image of a man and a lion), Who was sacrificed for us (the calf) and Who ultimately resurrected and ascended into Heaven (the eagle). It is important to note that the Four Evangelists are commonly depicted with these figures as the symbols of their particular version of the Gospel.