FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 36a

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

	INWARD → Personal	OUTWARD ← Peoples	ONWARD |→ Prophetic
CHAPTERS	1 — 3	4 — 24	25 — 32	33 — 48
	Ezekiel's Call to Ministry	**Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem**	**Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel**	**Restoration of Israel in the Future**

	• Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC)
	• 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25
	• 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30
		• A Disobedient Nation (**4-7**)
		• A Departed Glory (**8-11**)
		• A Disciplined Nation (**12-24**)
		  • The Futility of False Optimism (**12-19**)
		  • The History of Judah's Corruption (**20-24**)
			• Ammon (**25:1-7**)
			• Moab (**25:8-11**)
			• Edom (**25:12-14**)
			• Philistia (**25:15-17**)
			• Tyre (**26:1—28:19**)
			• Sidon (**28:20-24**)
			• Egypt (**29-32**)
				• Return of Israel to the land (**33-39**)
				• Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (**40-48**)
				• Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God

593BC	**Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem**	587BC	**Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem**	586BC	**Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem**	571BC
	The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT			**The City Restored** 15 Years Prophesying HOPE



Author: Ezekiel ("God strengthens") **Place:** Babylonia **Time:** About 22 years (593-571BC)

Events:

605BC	— FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken)	Ezekiel 17 years old
597BC	— SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken)	Ezekiel 25 years old
593BC	— Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel	Ezekiel 30 years old
586BC	— THIRD assult upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed)	Ezekiel 37 years old

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 36

- Ezekiel 35 is set as antithesis to Ezekiel 36.
- When God intervenes on Israel's behalf, the "mountains" of Israel's enemies will be judged (Ek.35:1-3, 8) but the "mountains of Israel" (Ek.35:12) will be blessed (Ek.36:1).
- Ezekiel 36:1-15 uses the "because/therefore" format to compare the judgment on the nations with Israel's restoration.
- Ezekiel 36:16-38 moves from the mountains of Israel to the people of Israel who will be the personal recipients of God's blessing.




THE
PEOPLE
BLESSED
Ezekiel 36:1-38
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PUNISH ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

Ezekiel 36:1-7

And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD!

EZEKIEL 36:1

And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD! (Ek.36:1)

- **In Ezekiel 36:1-7 Edom is again pictured as representing all nations who seek Israel's harm (Ek.36:5, 7).**
- **Ezekiel contrasted Israel's present humiliation before her enemies with her future glorification.**
- **God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy to the mountains of Israel in contrast to Mount Seir (cf. Ek.6:1-14).**
- **This prophecy concerns the land of Israel primarily, not the people of Israel.**



Thus says the Lord GOD:
"Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,'

EZEKIEL 36:2

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,' (Ek.36:2)

- Ten times in Ezekiel 36 the prophet stated, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” This focuses on the sovereignty of God.
- God promised to punish Israel’s enemies for their sin in hounding, slandering (v.3), plundering (v.4-5), rejoicing over, and having malice against Israel.
- This section continues the prophecy against Edom from chapter 35.



therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people"—

EZEKIEL 36:3

therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people"— (Ek.36:3)

- **The heathen nations have made you (mountains of Israel) desolate.**
- **The Lord's motive in giving the land into the hands of the heathen was to chastise Israel.**
- **The motive of the heathen was that they might take possession of it for their own personal profit.**



therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around—

EZEKIEL 36:4

therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, the valleys, the desolate wastes, and the cities that have been forsaken, which became plunder and mockery to the rest of the nations all around— (Ek.36:4)

- The Lord had something to say to the whole land that had fallen prey to Israel's neighbor nations.
- The Promised Land was the Lord's land in the same sense that the Sabbath was His day and the tithe was His possession.
- Israel's enemies had dealt with her in their anger and envy (Ek.35:11), but now Yahweh would deal with them in His fierce jealousy over Israel's welfare.



therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
"Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country."



EZEKIEL 36:5



therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations and against all Edom, who gave My land to themselves as a possession, with wholehearted joy and spiteful minds, in order to plunder its open country." (Ek.36:5)

- God swore with uplifted hand (a gesture accompanying an oath; cf. Ek.20:5, 15, 23; 47:14) that the nations who had scorned her (Ek.36:6) will also suffer scorn.

- Because Edom and the other nations had taken over the Lord's land joyfully and had scorned the Israelites, He would pronounce judgment on them in his hot jealousy.



Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations."

EZEKIEL 36:6

Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have borne the shame of the nations." (Ek.36:6)

- **Ezekiel was to announce to the whole Promised Land that Yahweh had spoken in His jealousy and wrath because Israel had suffered the insults of the nations (Ge.12:3).**

- **The nations round about Israel would surely have to endure the consequences of their insults against Israel.**



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame.

EZEKIEL 36:7

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I have raised My hand in an oath that surely the nations that are around you shall bear their own shame. (Ek.36:7)

- **The fact of Israel's future restoration seemed so remote after her fall to Babylon that God put great emphasis on His personal character (rather than external circumstances) as the basis for the fulfillment.**

- **Surrounding nations seemed to have triumphed, but their victory was merely temporary. They would suffer for their sin.**



RESTORING ISRAEL'S LAND

Ezekiel 36:8-12

But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come.

EZEKIEL 36:8

But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My people Israel, for they are about to come. (Ek.36:8)

- **In contrast with the judgment about to be inflicted on Israel's enemies, Israel herself could look forward to restoration and blessing.**
- **In a reversal of the catastrophe that God had earlier called against the mountains of Israel (Ek.6:1-7), He said the mountains will produce branches and fruit for His people.**
- **God will restore the land so that it can provide for the restored remnant.**



For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.

EZEKIEL 36:9

For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. (Ek.36:9)

- **The nation that had been decimated in the land (Ek.6:3, 5-7) will replenish it.**
- **The land would become productive because the Israelites would soon come back into the land.**
- **Yahweh assured the land that He was for it, He would bless it, and it would become cultivated again instead of desolate and uninhabited.**



I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.





EZEKIEL 36:10

I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

- God's blessing will involve numerical growth, for the number of people will be multiplied.

- Rather than being a cruel wilderness with drought, famine, and death (Lv.26:18-22; Nu.13:32; Du.28:20-24), it will be a place of blessing.



I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 36:11

I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.36:11)

- Israel's latter state will be far superior to her former.
- The Lord promised to fill all the land with Israelites, to enable them to live in their cities and rebuild the places that had become ruins (Ek.6:3, 5-7).
- The mountains of Israel would again become populated with people and animals that would become fruitful and multiply.
- The Lord would bless them more greatly than ever before. Then His people would know that He is God.



Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them of children.

EZEKIEL 36:12

Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them of children. (Ek.36:12)

- When God finally restores the people to the land He will prosper the land. He guarantees the permanence of this arrangement.
- Once Israel is restored to the land her inheritance will be secure.
- The land will never again deprive Israel of her children.
- This will take place when Israel possesses her land during Christ's millennial reign.
- The Lord would cause the people of Israel to take possession of these mountains as their inheritance and never leave them again (Ge.12:7).



REMOVE ISRAEL'S REPROACH

Ezekiel 36:13-15

Thus says the Lord GOD:
"Because they say to you, 'You devour men and bereave your nation of children,

EZEKIEL 36:13

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because they say to you, 'You devour men and bereave your nation of children, (Ek.36:13)

- Besides punishing Israel's enemies (Ek.36:1-7) and restoring Israel's land (Ek.36:8-12), God will also remove Israel's reproach.

- When misfortune comes upon a man he sometimes will blame it upon another person or thing, when perhaps he is to blame himself.

- When Israel was cast out of her own land she was inclined to accuse it for the calamity.



therefore you shall devour men no more, nor bereave your nation anymore," says the Lord GOD.



EZEKIEL 36:14



therefore you shall devour men no more, nor bereave your nation anymore," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.36:14)

- **The nations had accused the Promised Land of devouring its inhabitants (Nu.13:32), but Yahweh would see that it no longer did that.**



And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. (**Nu.13:32**).



Nor will I let you hear the taunts of the nations anymore, nor bear the reproach of the peoples anymore, nor shall you cause your nation to stumble anymore," says the Lord GOD.





EZEKIEL 36:15

Nor will I let you hear the taunts of the nations anymore, nor bear the reproach of the peoples anymore, nor shall you cause your nation to stumble anymore," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.36:15)

- The mockery and humiliation (taunts and scorn) Israel had been forced to endure (Ek.36:3-6) will cease (Ek.16:57-58).

- Israel will once again be restored to her position of prestige as God's Chosen People (Du.28:13; Zc.8:13, 20-23).

- God would not allow the Israelites to hear insults from their neighbors any longer, to bear disgrace any longer, or to stumble in their affairs any longer.



COVENANT THEOLOGY PERSPECTIVE
DOES THIS SOUND CORRECT?

- From the perspective of the New Testament, these promises all apply to the church as the new Israel.
- How could such seemingly materialistic images have relevance for God's people who are not a single earthly nation farming in a single part of the world?
- The church may take great comfort in the fulfillment of the ultimate victory over all its foes that such a compound prophecy (Ek.35:1 to Ek.36:15) guarantees?



ISRAEL'S PEOPLE TO BE REGATHERED

Ezekiel 36:16-38

FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 36a