FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 36b

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 LAND WILL
BE BLESSED
Ezekiel 36:1-15

ISRAEL'S PEOPLE TO BE REGATHERED

Ezekiel 36:16-38

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:



EZEKIEL 36:16



Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (Ek.36:16)

- **Before dwelling on Israel’s future cleansing, God discussed Israel's sinful past which caused their judgment (Ek.36:16-21).**



Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity.

EZEKIEL 36:17

These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. (Ek.36:17)

- This profaning was like a menstrual discharge that rendered a woman ceremonially unclean and defiled everything she touched (Lv.15:19-23).

- God recounts the events in the history of Israel while they were still in their own land. Their conduct was so corrupt that the Lord likened it to the condition of an unclean woman.



Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it.

EZEKIEL 36:18



Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. (Ek.36:18)

- **How did the people defile the land? By bloodshed and idolatry (Ek.33:25).**
- **As a result God removed them from the defiled land.**
- **Yahweh had poured out His wrath on them because of their bloodshed and idolatry.**



So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.

EZEKIEL 36:19

So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. (Ek.36:19)

- **When they were in the land, they defiled it by their conduct and actions.**

- **God had judged them for their deeds by scattering them among the nations. This is consistent with God's projected Blessings and Curses given to Moses (Du.29:1—30:10).**



When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.’

EZEKIEL 36:20

When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.' (Ek.36:20)

- Yet even when scattered among other nations, they profaned God’s holy name.

- Their dispersion made Yahweh look impotent since the nations concluded that He could not keep them safe in His land.



But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

EZEKIEL 36:21

But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. (Ek.36:21)

- **The Lord had risked His reputation by driving Israel out of the land, but He cared about His reputation, which the Israelites had made common.**
- **We need to remember that how Christians represent God by our words and deeds likewise concerns Him (Mt.6:9; Lk.11:2).**
- **Israel was guilty of two great sins:**
  - **Polluting God's land (Ek.36:16-19)**
  - **Profaning God's name before the Gentiles (Ek.36:20-23)**



Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

EZEKIEL 36:22

Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. (Ek.36:22)

- **Other nations viewed the sovereign God through the actions of Israel, thus profaning His holy name.**

- **God said He would restore Israel not for her sake but for the sake of His holy name.**

- **God had shown His justice when He punished Israel for her sin. He will show His grace and faithfulness when He restores her and renews His covenant promises.**



And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

EZEKIEL 36:23

And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. (Ek.36:23)

- **Israel had no intrinsic value which prompted God to act on her behalf.**
- **He would restore Israel because His character was at stake.**
- **He would show the holiness of His great name (Ek.20:41; 28:22, 25; 38:16; 39:27).**
- **He would vindicate His reputation as being a holy (unique) God when He proved Himself such in the sight of the nations (Ex.5:2; 9:16; 32:11-18; Lv.18:21; 20:3; 22:31-33; Nu.14:13-19; Du.29:1—30:10).**



For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.





EZEKIEL 36:24

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. (Ek.36:24)

- The means God will use to show His holiness are explained in Ezekiel 36:24-32.
- He will first restore the nation physically: He will gather her from all the countries and bring her back into her own land.
- Headlining God's future program will be the restored nation of Israel.



Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

EZEKIEL 36:25

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (Ek.36:25)

- **Israel's restoration will be more than physical.**
- **In Old Testament times sprinkling or washing with water pictured cleansing from ceremonial defilement (Lv.15:21-22; Nu.19:17-19).**
- **Since Israel's sin was like the ceremonial impurity of menstruation (Ek.36:17) her cleansing was now compared to the ceremonial act of purification.**



I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

EZEKIEL 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ek.36:26)

- **The point is that God will purify Israel from her sins.**
- **This cleansing will be followed by the impartation of new life.**
- **In place of a heart of stone He will give Israel a heart of flesh (Ek.11:19). Thus, it will have real life.**



I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ek.36:26)

- God would give them a new heart and spirit and would remove their hardness of heart and give them soft hearts (regeneration, Ek.11:19; 18:31; 2Co.3:3-6).

- It may be this passage the Lord Jesus had in mind when He spoke to Nicodemus about the new birth (Jn.3).

- The HEART stands for the whole person — mind, will, and emotions (Ek.2:4; 3:7). The SPIRIT describes the motivation that drives thought and conduct.



NEW HEART - NEW SPIRIT

- We should not find this (Ek.36:25-27) to be fulfilled exclusively in Christian conversion in this age.
- New Testament conversion is only a preview of the massive spiritual revival God has in store for all true Israel and Gentiles who believe.
- A significant difference is that Jeremiah put more emphasis on the role of God's Word in Israel's transformation whereas Ezekiel put more emphasis on the role of God's Spirit.
- Both His Word and His Spirit will be crucial in Israel's future restoration.



I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.



EZEKIEL 36:27



I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (Ek.36:27)

- God will put His Spirit within the Israelites and cause them to obey His commands carefully.
- This is a coming of the Holy Spirit on Israel in the future, not His coming on the church at Pentecost.
- God will give the converted nation a new heart and a new spirit.
- With God's Spirit indwelling them (Ek.37:14), they will be motivated to obey His decrees and laws (Ek.37:24).



Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

EZEKIEL 36:28

Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. (Ek.36:28)

- God's restoration will not simply be an undoing of Israel's sin to bring her to a state of neutrality.
- Rather it will involve the positive implanting of a new nature in Israel's people that will make them righteous.
- Jeremiah called this work of God the "New Covenant" (Je.31:31-33).
- Implanting God's Spirit in believing Israelites will produce a new relationship between Israel and her God.
- They will enjoy a permanent, intimate relationship with God.



I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.



EZEKIEL 36:29



I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. (Ek.36:29)

- God will extend all His graciousness to His people.

- Being delivered from their sin, they will experience the bountiful provision of the land including grain fruit, and crops (Ek.34:27) without famine (Ek.34:29).



And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.





EZEKIEL 36:30

And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. (Ek.36:30)

- **God will give them abundant harvests constantly so they would never experience famine (constant fertility and fruitfulness).**

- **A famine in a country simply brings on it reproach. Famine will no longer occur.**



Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.

EZEKIEL 36:31

Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. (Ek.36:31)

- **When Israel reflects on God's grace and her former character (her evil ways and wicked deeds), she will realize she does not deserve His favor.**
- **God will do this not for her sake, but to magnify His own name.**
- **Israel will remember their former sins and loathe themselves.**



Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!”



EZEKIEL 36:32



Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!" (Ek.36:32)

- In fact she will loathe herself because of her detestable practices, looking back in horror at them.
- The blackness of her past actions will contrast starkly with the light of God’s grace.
- In the future, when Israel recalls her past actions, she will recognize that God had not saved her because of her merit.
- The Lord would not accomplish this regathering for the sake of His people, but for the sake of His reputation among the rest of the world's population (Ek.36:22).



Thus says the Lord GOD:
"On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.

EZEKIEL 36:33

Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. (Ek.36:33)

- **This present announcement of God's gracious dealings with His people should shame them and bring them to their knees in repentance.**

- **The details of Israel's reestablishment on her land set forth above simply did not occur in the returns under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.**



The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

EZEKIEL 36:34



The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. (Ek.36:34)

- Future cleansing from sin and restoration of the Jews to the land and restoration of the land to fruitfulness would all occur at the same time.
- This shows that the Jews' present occupation of the Promised Land does not fulfill these promises.
- Israel has not yet experienced God's cleansing for their sins, which comes with regeneration (Ro.11:26-27).



So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

EZEKIEL 36:35

So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' (Ek.36:35)

- When Israel is restored and the land cultivated, people will note that this wasteland will be like the Garden of Eden.

- Israel's cities, formerly in ruins, will be fortified and inhabited.

- People would marvel at the lushness of the formerly desolate land and at the strength of the formerly ruined cities of Israel (Is.11:6-9; 51:3; Jl.3:18; Am.9:13-15; Ro.8:19-22; 2Pe.3:13; Rv.21:1-4, 23-27).



Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it.”

EZEKIEL 36:36

Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it." (Ek.36:36)

- To the surrounding nations Israel will become an object lesson of God’s grace.
- They will be forced to acknowledge God’s sovereign power in restoring His people.
- The other nations of the world would recognize that Israel's God was responsible for this transformation.



Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

EZEKIEL 36:37

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock. (Ek.36:37)

- **God will also cause the nation to increase numerically.**
- **This was considered a sign of God's blessing (Ge.12:2; 15:1-6; 1Sm.1:5-6; 2:1-11; Zc.8:4-5).**
- **For the first time in the book he permits himself to be entreated by the house of Israel.**



Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 36:38

Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.36:38)

- Ezekiel, a priest, compared the swelling population of Israel to the numerous flocks of sacrificial animals gathered for the feasts in Jerusalem.
- As tightly packed herds jostle for space because of their vast numbers, so Israel's ruined cities, then empty and desolate, will be filled with flocks of people.
- The Jews would fill the cities like the sheep used to fill Jerusalem during the feasts when the people offered large numbers of them as sacrifices to the Lord.
- This increase in the population in the Promised Land would also convince people of Yahweh's unique deity.



FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 36b