



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 39. Ezekiel, pt. 3

- **Review**

- Ezekiel was a member of the second deportation to Babylon in the early 6th century BC prophesying to his fellow exiles about the coming destruction of Jerusalem to counter false prophets giving false hope about the condition of the nation, but after the judgment, his messages turned to God's plan to restore Israel and punish her enemies.
- Main themes:
 - God's holiness and wrath
 - God's continuing plan for Israel
- Sections covered so far:
 - Ezekiel's call (1–3)
 - God's Presence Departing Jerusalem (4–11)
 - The Judgments on Jerusalem's Sin (12–24)
 - The Judgments on Israel's Neighbors (25–32)

- The _____ and _____ of Israel (33–39)

- (33) Earlier messages are repeated in light of the judgment.
 - The watchman warning (cf. 3) returns because though the people ignored their faithful ‘watchman’ (Ezekiel) before, they should listen up now that He has been vindicated.
 - The message of individual responsibility (cf. 18) returns to show that despite the judgment on their families back home, they are expected to respond in faith and repentance for themselves.
- (34) The indictment of bad shepherds is proof that they need God to shepherd them, leading to the prophecy of the _____ Who will come to do so (cf. Micah).
- (35–36) The fate of the ‘faithless mountain’ (Seir, i.e., Edom) to be judged irredeemably is contrasted with the fate of Israel’s mountains which were judged but will be redeemed.
 - The central concern is for God’s name among the nations, including why they will get new hearts and repent!
- (37) The ‘dry bones’ vision reflects how Israel will go from its lowest/weakest state to ‘alive’ and strong again, including being reunited in the Land, with the Davidic King, at peace with God, and in His presence.

- (38–39) The prophecy concerning Gog and Magog appears to refer to the battle at the end of the Tribulation (cf. Rev. 16, 17, 19).

- The _____ **Conditions of Israel (40–48)**

- The book ends with visions describing the state of Israel after God has finished restoring and delivering them.
 - This is the reversal of the first half of the book.
- How do we know this is the Millennial Temple?
 - The _____ context:
 - The promises of restoration culminate in God’s promise to build His sanctuary among them (cf. 37:26–28).
 - The battle at the end of the Tribulation (cf. 38–39) leads naturally into a description of the Millennium to follow.
 - The _____ context: Ezekiel moves from how Israel’s sin led to judgment and the departure of God’s glory back to a time when Israel is restored with God’s glory back among them.
 - The descriptions of this Temple do not match the second Temple, but they do correspond with the prophecy of a Temple greater than Solomon’s (cf. Hag. 2:6–9).
 - Reading the *extensive* descriptions of the Temple, its worship practices, and the land divisions as merely figurative would go completely against a normal reading of the text.

- Why offer _____ after Christ returns?
 - Sacrifices never actually paid for sins, just pointed to the need for that payment (cf. Heb. 10:4).
 - Jewish believers continued to participate in Temple worship after converting to Christianity in Acts.
 - At least five other prophetic passages refer to sacrifices in the Millennial Kingdom.
 - Sacrifices have always been symbolic (especially for Israelites in covenantal worship), so it makes sense that they would resume when they have a Temple again.
 - They are parallel with the practice of Communion for the Church, but since the Church will have been raptured, Israel will be left as the focus of worship in the Kingdom.

Discussion:

1. What should we take away from the fact that our salvation is ultimately for the sake of God's name, not us?
2. What is the benefit for the Church to see so much text devoted to the fate of Israel?

FOR REFLECTION: Pray through your pessimism! What low points in your life are weighing you down that need to be balanced against the grace that will reverse them promised to you?

Blanks: Restoration, Protection, Messiah, Millennial, immediate, book, sacrifices