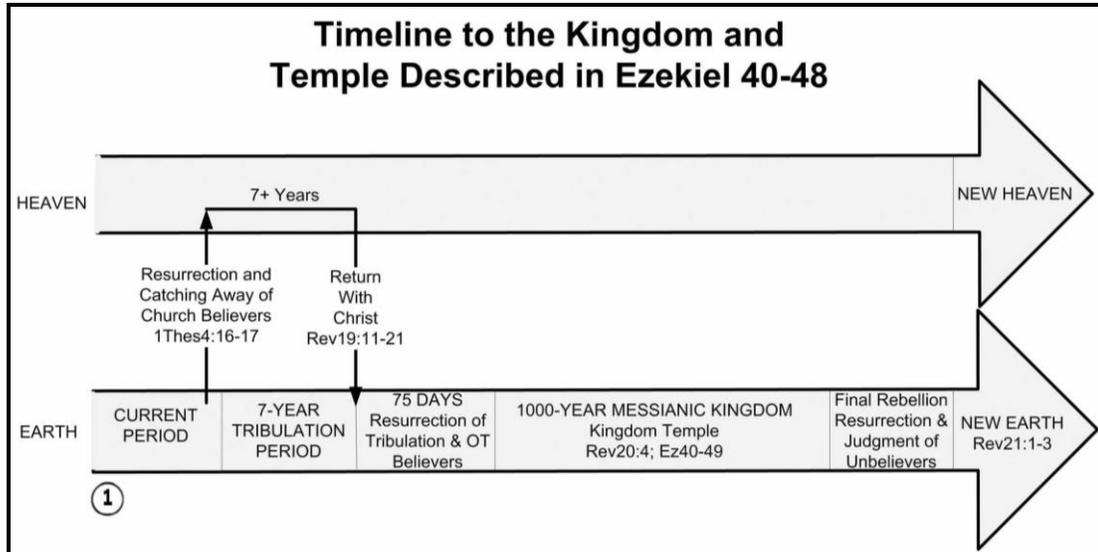


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD

Unit III – Visions of Grandeur

“GOD’S EARTHLY FULFILLMENT OF ISRAEL’S PROMISED KINGDOM”



Sunday School Lesson No. XII – November 23, 2014

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 47:13-23

Required Reading: Ezekiel 47:13-23

Motto Text: Ezekiel 47:21-22, *“So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.”*

Reliable Resources: David Jeremiah Study Bible; Precepts for Living (UMI); Pilgrim Study Bible (Notes); Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Nelson’s Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible (1980); Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); The Message (Translation); Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; The Outline Study Bible by H. L. Willmington; Libronix Electronic Library System; Be Reverent (Warren Wiersbe); Notes from MacArthur Study Bible

LESSON INTRODUCTION

A beloved preacher of our times shared a providential expression with me and the people I pastor years ago. His name is Dr. Grady Welch, who at the time served as a missionary with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Dr. Welch said, “Anything we have above nothing, God gave it to us.” That expression has resonated in my mind and soul now for over 30 years. But it had not fully brought forth its maturity until now that I am in my 60’s. “Everything we have above nothing, God gave it to us.” What do we have or own that is above nothing? In fact everything we possess from the next breath to the next step God Almighty has provided and will provide. The hymn writer declares, “Great is Thy Faithfulness... all I have needed Thy hands have provided, Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me.” Beloved, that’s where I want to continue with our lesson this week in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel has been describing the future Millennial Kingdom, Temple, and promised land to which Jehovah would restore in a future day (chapters 40-48). It is the promise of His own word to the patriarchs of the past in Israel. It was established in the

Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic covenants and it will be fulfilled even though Israel was taken away from the promised land and scattered among the Babylonian and Gentile nations of the world. (Read Jeremiah 29:11-14)

Beloved, Ezekiel's prophecy of a future Kingdom of grandeur will culminate the precious promises of the Lord concerning Israel and those who stand faithfully with her! Now in our lesson this week we will see the promise of **God's Earthly Fulfillment of Israel's Promised Kingdom** as Ezekiel is given the land divisions of the Millennial Kingdom that will be fulfilled in the coming days! This includes not only the divisions of the restored land and Temple, but how God's grace will extend even to those Gentiles who faithfully walk with Israel.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Promises of the Land. Ezekiel 47:13-14**
- **The Particulars of the Land. Ezekiel 47:15-21**
- **The Peculiarities of the Land. Ezekiel 47:22-23**

LESSON EXPOSITION

I. The Promises of the Land. Ezekiel 47:13-14

Quoting "Heart of the Lesson" from Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, "The Promised Land is a critical part of God's program for Israel. It was originally promised to Abraham and his descendants in the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12:1-3; 15:7, 18-21; 17:8). It serves as the stage upon which God's material blessings or curses in the Mosaic covenant play out (Lev. 26; Deut. 27:1-3; 28:1-68). It is the place where David and his descendants rule over God's people as specified in the Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7:10). And it is the place which, after her repentance, Israel will be restored and live in peace and prosperity in accordance with the New covenant (Jer. 31:17, 23-24, 27-28). Ezk. 47:13-23 is set in this future period of Israel's reconciliation to her God and restoration to her land."

Remember the earlier statement in the introduction, "Anything we have above nothing, God gave it to us." This explains verses 13-14 of the text, not what Israel deserved, but what God's grace promised for them. Ezekiel sees in a vision that in the future Millennial kingdom God will equally restore the lands of promise to the tribes of Israel, which would include the sons of Joseph as equal heirs in lieu of Joseph and with the tribe of Levi receiving their inheritance in the Lord's territory as they serve through the priestly family of Zadok (Ezk. 40:46; 44:15).

II. The Particulars of the Land. Ezekiel 47:15-21

Now the particulars of the land are revealed to Ezekiel in a vision of its divisions (Who gets what portion.) These verses describe the division of the land using land marks that Ezekiel fully understood, and I know there will be no problems in the days to come. The land is described in a clockwise manner from North to East to South to West to North. A place for every tribe and every tribe in its place. Note beloved the opening statements of this lesson, "Everything we have above nothing, God gave it to us." All the tribe's inheritance will be equally distributed by the good hand of God. No one deserves anything; it is all of God's grace and mercy! Verse 21 summarizes the particulars of the millennial kingdom land by reminding Israel the land will be equally divided according to God's plan. (This plan is better described in Ezk. 48:1-29.) Thank God for all of the particulars of the land's division.

III. The Peculiarities of the Land. Ezekiel 47:22-23

There will be an interesting peculiarity concerning the land. God will allow those "resident aliens" or "the strangers" who have been content to dwell among the remnant of redeemed Israel to also have an inheritance among the Israelites with which they dwell if they were committed to live, have and raise their children among the Jews (Ezk. 47:22). The peculiar fellowship will be a great blessing to the strangers who sojourn with Israel. "In God's kingdom economy, non-Jewish people would naturally congregate with Jewish tribal communities that they felt comfortable with...that geographic portion of the land was where they would have an inheritance."

CLOSING

The Gentiles who seek the God of Israel will, according to the prophet, have the privilege that we who were separated from Jesus Christ, now have in Christ. "...*No more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*" Ephesians 2:19

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TV Broadcasts: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead: November 30, 2014

Isaiah 52:1-2, 7-12

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.