

**FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD
UNIT I – SIGNS OF GOD’S COVENANTS**

“GOD PROMISES ISRAEL...THE BEST IS YET TO COME”



Lesson IV – September 24, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 36:22-32

Required Reading: Ezekiel 36 and Ezekiel 37

Motto Text: Ezekiel 36:26, *“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library System, Precepts for Living (UMI); Preaching from the Prophets (Yates); Be Reverent (Warren Wiersbe); Notes from MacArthur Study Bible; Logos Bible Software

INTRODUCTION

The Priest Ezekiel, who later became a prophet, was captured and brought to Babylon in the second wave of 597 B.C. While brought there under protest, it appears that his role in prophecy would be exilic, preparing Judah for the post-exilic years. The mission was not easy, for he lost his wife and was told not to mourn. (Read Ezekiel 24:15-18).

While Ezekiel declared the long duration of captivity for Judah, in this lesson he declares the hope of all Israel (Judah and Israel) to see God’s final frontier for them, which will be the Millennial Kingdom! Now the truth of the matter is that this kingdom and restoration will not come to Israel on the basis of merit, but on the basis of God’s Sovereign amazing grace! Ezekiel declares to the captive remnant that the faithfulness of the Lord stands sure. He will uphold His Word and also demonstrate through His gracious actions that He is the Almighty God who is able to keep His wayward people.

As we examine this lesson, God’s reputation will be vindicated because His Word is eternal, as we read in Psalm 119:89, *“Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”*

Anticipated Power Points:

- **When God’s Honor is Restored.** Ezekiel 36:22-23
- **When God’s People are Renewed.** Ezekiel 36:24-27
- **When God’s Judgment is Remitted.** Ezekiel 36:28-32

“God Promises Israel...the Best is Yet to Come”

LESSON EXPOSITION

A rumor had been instigated by Satan among the Gentile nations surrounding Israel that God was unable or unwilling to protect and purify His people, Israel. So much was the spread of this rumor among the Gentiles that in Ezekiel 36:1-7, God spoke to the mountains and to the land of Israel and her adversaries that in His time He would exonerate His own Name by totally restoring and increasing all He had taken away from His people, Israel. Let us pick up with God speaking through the prophet Ezekiel in Chapter 36, verses 16-20 as He justifies His acts of judgment. But in verses 21-32, God renders His acts of Grace.

“God Promises Israel...the Best is Yet to Come”

I. When God’s Honor is Restored. Ezekiel 36:22-23

A. His name was profaned. vs. 22

Israel had publically humiliated the Sacred name of the Lord, but He ever lives to maintain His holiness and faithfulness (Lam. 3:22-23).

B. His name personified. vs. 23

Beloved, God would have been justified to obliterate Israel for her sins. Had He done so, the heathens would have seen God as no different than their weak deities. But, He demonstrated His true power by keeping His own promise to deliver His people back to their land, and eventually bring forth their Messiah!

II. When God’s People are Renewed. Ezekiel 36:24-27

Note: The great problem with Israel at that time was the same one that unregenerate men share today. “We must be born again!” Not by nationality or simple creeds, but from above, by the Spirit of God! (Read John 3:1-5). So what does Jehovah do? He reminds us of the words spoken in Jeremiah 31:31-34, *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*

Remember that both Jeremiah and Ezekiel emphasized that the Lord will judge men individually and not on the basis of nationality or paternity. Ezekiel 18:20, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”*

A. God will regather them. vs. 24. He will bring all Israel from every place among the Gentiles in the future!

B. God will restore them. vs. 25

The ritual of sprinkling water was a symbol of purification in Israel. (Note Ex. 30:17-21; Lev. 14:51-52; Num. 19:17-19). In the future, God will thoroughly purify them through the blood of their Messiah Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:8-10). Israel will never flirt with idols, but only serve the One and Only True God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

C. God will fully renew them. vss. 26-27

Their emotions and total personality will be renewed by the act of God giving them a new heart and spirit. Praise God! The old sages would say, “He changed my heart so I can love right, changed my mind so I can think right.” Ezekiel prophesizes that this is the promise of God in the future of Israel.

III. When God’s Judgment is Remitted. Ezekiel 36:28-32

The removal of judgment by God will immediately render the future of Israel as a time of great grace.

A. No other gods. vs. 28

B. No more famines. vss. 29-30

C. No more foolish pride. vss. 31-32

No room to boast but to reflect on how great God is! “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.”

CLOSING

The future would be promising for a people who had been displaced because of rebellion and sin. Oh, thank God for His Own Name’s sake, honor and joy will be restored among the dispersed because He is worthy and set apart from all other gods! Psalm 96:7-13, *“Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.”*



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LOOKING AHEAD:

October 1, 2017

Genesis 15:1-6, 17-21

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Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway on Wednesday at noon.