

New Covenant Themes from the Old Testament

Ezekiel 36: 32-38 'Revival' Part I.

- Man centeredness & selfishness bring chaos: people seek their own path
- There is a clear 'then' and 'now': then - God's people served self = slavery, now God intervenes for his name and glory= conversion & regeneration

I. God's Restored People 36: 33-34

- For Israel the land meant that God was with them - the promise was realised
- It meant God's blessing, God's ownership and possession of them
- To be driven from the land meant, God disowned them, cursed and every pagan nation new that – but God promises here again his ownership:v.32
- On that day of their cleansing, their redemption, their full atonement – v.33
 - *"I will cause the cities to be inhabited"*
- God will again be the settled dwelling place of His people & in Him they will be steadfast & immovable: Ex.33: 14. Jesus is the promise John 10: 29
- In light of this *"all the waist places will be rebuilt"* Ezekiel refers to the reversal of Gen 3: 17 – Ezekiel speaks plainly of the Garden of Eden: v.35

II. God's Restored Paradise (36: 35-36)

- A **new Eden** the new heart (v.26) is to be followed by a new Eden
- The **second Adam** brings the new Eden, and its features are stunning
 - 1) **Life:** before it was desolate marked by death- (Isa 35: 1) there will be life.
 - 2) **Order:** a desolate place means confusion, but life brings order "garden"
The root of order is **love**, love involves sympathy, sympathy inspires harmony
 - 3) **Beauty:** whenever Eden is mentioned, we think of exceeding beauty
The new Eden like the old one is to flourish on earth. Here Christ converts wilderness into a garden: vs 36
Ezekiel's language speaks of those nations who survived God's judgement
The heart of Ezekiel's message- what seems impossible, God will do
Heart of missions: Mal 1: 11 very reason for our existence Rev:21: 22-27

Salvation is of the Lord

Jonah 1: 17- 2: 10

- Jonah's conviction led to real heart repentance, not his confession: 1: 9,12
- Jonah accepts his guilt and that the "wages of sin is death" Rom 6: 23
- He is able to throw himself completely and unconditionally on God's grace
- God provided a great fish to swallow (vs.17) the fish is a miracle from God
- Jonah prayed from the belly of the fish (2:1): the prayer is a like a psalm
 - 1) Intro summary: announces this to be an account of answered prayer. 2a
 - 2) Body of the psalm: Jonah's expression of his personal predicament also with the praise for grace towards Him (2b-7)
 - 3) The condition is an outburst of praise to God in a song of thanksgiving together with a vow of dedication to his service (8-9)

I. Faith against senses

- Jonah brought in his heart to a triumphant faith in - Lord in hopeless situation
- Nature of faith looks expectantly to the unseen: Rom 8: 25; 4: 18; Heb 11:1

II. Four steps or stages to Jonah's victory (2:2-9)

- 1) Calling upon the Lord (2:2) Jonah remembers the faithfulness of the Lord from the depths of the grave. God's assurance to the Christian. Heb 4: 16
- 2) Coming to a throne of grace (2: 3-4) Jonah recognised God cast him into the sea (vs.3) which leads to most important statement (vs.4, repeated in vs.7)
- 3) Tokens of God's favour (2:5-7) Jonah went a step further, he now receives tokens of God's favour, as the Holy Spirit filled him with assurance (v.7)
- 4) The triumph of faith (2:8-9) Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Jonah renewed his commitment to the Lord (9)

CONCLUSION – the Joy of Salvation

- ☑ Jonah, like David, repented and experienced new found joy in his salvation
- ☑ Jonah experienced what has been revealed to us in the New Testament – completeness in Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1: 8 and 9 – Salvation is of the Lord!