

new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk My statutes, and you will keep My judgements and do them. 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.”

- D. The vision of dry, dead bones being brought together and given life, are a symbolic representation of God putting His Spirit in the whole house of Israel, enabling them to live, 37:1-14
- E. The symbolic representation of 2 sticks (2 nations) coming together and becoming one forever (never to be divided into 2 kingdoms again); and this kingdom will have one king over them, “*David My servant*”. He will be their prince forever (vs. 24, 25). God will make an everlasting covenant of peace with them (vs. 26). 37:15-28
- F. The new temple, chapters 40-48. Here is description of a future temple of God, that will excel all those places of worship previously built by human hands.
- G. The answer to the 2nd of our 2 questions
 - What did the LORD God instruct Ezekiel, the God-appointed prophet, to speak to the people of Israel living in Babylonian captivity, WHEN the nation of Israel was no more – no longer existed as an independent nation, but was conquered and scattered? Answer: Preach the Gospel. A gospel that tells of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who came to seek and save that which was lost; the Good Shepherd, who feeds and cares for His sheep. A gospel that tells of the only God who is able to breathe spiritual life into souls that are dead in trespasses and sins, giving them both the will and the ability to do what is pleasing to God. A gospel that tells of the God who is able to take out the heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh; and is able to put His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, within you. A gospel that tells of a place that God is preparing exclusively for His redeemed people, where they will dwell with Him and enjoy being in His glorious presence forever.

IV. Application: Preach the gospel!

Ezekiel’s Ministry Generally Considered

HANDOUT PBC Sun. PM 11/27/22

Intro.: Tonight I would like to return to the O.T. book of Ezekiel to generally consider the prophecies and ministry of Ezekiel

- I. Ezekiel’s Prophecies uttered BEFORE the overthrow of Jerusalem, 1:1-24:27. Until Jerusalem fell, Ezekiel was increasingly predicting its certainty (chapters 1-24). This began 6 years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B. C.
 - A. The sin of Jerusalem (and Israel) declared
 1. Briefly stated – “...*I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols...*” Ezek.6:9
 2. More fully stated or visualized – the vision-trip, 8:3, 5-18; 14:2; the listing, 22:3-12, 17-22
 - B. The promised, national judgment of God set and inescapable
 1. Generally stated in Ezek.14:12, 13 > “*The word of the LORD came again to me, saying: 14:13 ‘Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it and cut off man and beast from it.’*”
 2. Particularly stated in
 - 2 Ki. 24:3, 4 > “*Surely at the commandment of the LORD this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, 24:4 and also because of the innocent blood that the had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which LORD would not pardon.*”
 - 2 Chron. 34:23-25 > 34:25 *because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.*”
 - C. The mercy of God manifested - (go to the chart)
 1. In the 55 years – the time from the end of Manasseh’s reign to the final destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
 2. In the prophets God sent to warn and urge Israel and Judah to turn from their sin and rebellion against God – 2 of those being Jeremiah and Ezekiel

3. In Josiah's 31 year reign as king in Judah – It was a time of genuine reformation. The Scriptures that state such:
 - a. 2 Ki. 22:2 > “*And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*” (See also 2 Chron. 34:1, 2)
 - b. 2 Ki. 23:25 > “*Now before him (king Josiah) there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.*”
4. YET, the promised national judgment of God against Judah was not changed nor diminished, 2 Ki. 23:25, 26
 - o 2 Ki. 23:26 > “*Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.*”

D. **The answer** to the 1st of the our 2 questions

- o What did the LORD God instruct Ezekiel, the God-appointed prophet, to speak to the people of Israel living in Babylonian captivity, WHEN the nation of Israel was under and experiencing the (severe) judgment of God? Answer: Preach the Gospel. A gospel that starts with the holiness of God, declaring every nation's obligation and every individual's obligation to exclusively worship and serve the LORD God by being holy in heart and mind. A gospel that plainly reveals the total depravity of nations and of individuals. A gospel that warns people about the wrath of God that is already abiding upon them. Ezekiel preached the gospel!
 - o Today, in this nation in which we live, this is what believers are to do: Preach the gospel!

II. Ezekiel's Prophecies of judgment which were uttered against foreign nations, 25:1-32:32

- A. The nations and peoples mentioned: Ammon, Moab, Edom, the Philistines, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, and later the false shepherds of Israel (34:1-31) and Mt. Seir (35:1-14)
- B. Application: God will not allow a sinful nation that has turned it back on God to go unpunished; that includes the USA. Will there be a Josiah-type of reprieve before the

time of unchangeable judgment comes? Only God knows. The USA is moving fast forward in the ways and the depth of wickedness! As God has faithfully brought His righteous judgment upon previous wicked nations, so He will do upon the wickedness of the USA. God is longsuffering and patient with wicked nations, but not without limits. Now is the time for sinners to turn from their wicked ways! Sinners need to hear the Gospel from God's redeemed people!

III. Ezekiel's Prophecies concerning the restoration and glorious future of Israel, which were uttered AFTER King Nebuchadnezzar of had taken Jerusalem and burned it (including the temple of God), 33:1- 48:35. For 16 years, after the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel's prophecies and preaching was upon God's great grace (not His wrath), manifested in God's promised restoration and hope (37:11) given to the whole house of Israel

A. God Himself will be their Shepherd – 34:11-16, 22-28

- o 34:11&12 > “*For thus says the Lord God: ‘Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 34:12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.’ “*
- o 34:22-24 > “*therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 34:23 I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them – My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 34:24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.*”

B. Enemies will be defeated and conquered – Mt. Seir (35:1-14) as well as God and Magog (38:1-39:29)

C. God will sanctify His great name, 36:22-28

- o 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.*
- o 36:24 *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 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. 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a*

God's great grace that would upon the whole house of Israel, bringing into a holy and everlasting relationship with Him. I will not be able to explain all that Ezekiel prophesied as to what it refers precisely and exactly; and I will not be able fully tell you whether or not these prophecies have been fully fulfilled or not. BUT I will enumerate enough of these prophecies so that you will be able to see the glorious future that was prophesied.

Wrath > glory, curses > blessings, despair > hope, death > life, condemnation > exaltation

- Give a general outline of the O.T. book of Ezekiel.
 - From E.J. Young's An Introduction to the O.T.
 - I. Prophecies uttered BEFORE the overthrow of Jerusalem, 1:1-24:27, which against Judah and Jerusalem in particular.
 - II. Prophecies of judgment which were uttered against foreign nations, 25:1-32:32
 - III. Prophecies concerning the restoration which were uttered AFTER King Nebuchadnezzar of had taken Jerusalem and burned it (including the temple of God)
 - From Henry H. Halley's Halley's Bible Handbook
 - I. Until Jerusalem fell, Ezekiel was increasingly predicting its certainty (chapters 1-24). This began 6 years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B. C.
 - II. After that his prophecies deal with the overthrow of surrounding Heathen Nations (chapters 25-32)
 - III. The Re-establishment of Glorious Future of Israel (chapters 33-48), which include, chapters 40-48. A description of a future temple of God, that would excel all those places of worship previously built by human hands. This Ezekiel preached for 16 years after the fall and destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
 - An

- Applications from the outline:
 - What did the LORD God instruct Ezekiel, the God-appointed prophet, to speak to the people of Israel living in Babylonian captivity, WHEN the nation of Israel was under and experiencing the (severe) judgment of God? Answer: the Gospel, with an emphasis on (total) the depravity of Israel as a nation and as individuals, urging people to turn from their evil, wicked ways and turn back to exclusively worshiping and serving Jehovah God, the one, true and living God.
 - What did the LORD God instruct Ezekiel, the God-appointed prophet, to speak to the people of Israel living in Babylonian captivity, WHEN the nation of Israel was no more - no longer existed as an independent nation, but was conquered and taken over by a powerful and cruel kingdom that God had raised up for the very purpose of punishing the nation of Israel for her continued and persistent rebellion against God and God's written word? Answer: the Gospel, with an emphasis on the hope of a coming Redeemer, (the coming day of restoration and regeneration), who would come and bring spiritual and eternal regeneration and restoration to "spiritual Israel" !

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