

Ezekiel 36: 37. 38 ‘Revival’ (Part II)

- The new covenant always included God’s grace to the nations (**Gen 18:18**)
- Twice God said to Israel (Ezek.14:3; 20:3) “I will not be enquired of by you”
- Now God says: vs. 37 “This I will also let the house of Israel ask of me.”
- How vastly different the picture is in the light of the new covenant.
- Promise God made to His Son in Ps 2: 8 “Ask...I will give you the nations”

I. Ask and it shall be given

- God refused to be inquired of by the hypocritical idol loving elders of Israel
- God tells his people, in the future era, no barrier of moral and spiritual fitness on their part will prevent their free approach to the throne of God (**Rom 6: 14**)
- They will come with passionate supplications for the very blessings He has promised (**Zech 12:10**). God’s people will really pray and be heard by God.
- God’s promises will guide us and be grounds for true and real expectation

II. I will bring in the multitudes

- God tell them how he will answer: **“I will increase them with men like a flock” v.38**
- This is a glorious promise of the new covenant given through Hosea (**1:10**)
- Vs 38 **“Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feast”**- God’s people will offer themselves freely (**Ps. 110: 3**)
- Peter describes new covenant believers (**1 Pet 2: 5**) and Paul also (**Rom 12:1**)
- The sacrifices: **38 “So shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people”**
- Brokenness of sin ruined lives, now, under the new covenant, we see full restoration (**Rev 7: 9-11**)
- God’s passion for the nations of the world is to be like the flocks in Jerusalem
- The great promise of God to His people for the nations **“then they would know that I am the Lord” -“my name shall be great among the nations” Mal 1:11**

Jonah 3: 1-10 ‘Lost Causes: Nineveh’

- Jonah preached, and Nineveh repented and believed in the living God.
- According to Jesus, this mighty act would stand throughout history as witness to both our unbelief and lack of expectations for the success of the Gospel.
- The Ninevites repenting was a rebuke to the unbelieving Jews of Jesus’ day
- Nineveh calls all of us to the Cross and asks what will you do with this Jesus?
- Nineveh points to men of all time of the need for repentance and faith in Jesus

I. Conviction of Sin

- Ninevites believed God at a basic level, it meant taking God at his word (3:5a)
 - 1) We see this in the way the Ninevites believed that Jonah was sign to them
 - 2) When Jonah preached they received his message as the Word of God.
 - 3) Because they believed God they were initially gripped by an awareness of His majesty, power and most awesomely, His wrath.

II. Sorrow for Sin

- The Ninevites ‘declared a fast and all of them from the greatest to the least put on sackcloth and ashes’ (5b)
- Even the king arose and humbled himself before God. They were grief stricken that they had grieved God so.
- Ninevites could neither fight nor flee, all they could do was plead for mercy

III. Changed Behaviour

- Vs 7-9 they went further, the king issued a decree for national reformation
- Nineveh’s repentance is an indication of what God can do with people like us
- That only through Jesus Christ true repentance can be expressed (2 Tim 2:19)
- Belonging to the Lord is unbreakably connected to Him knowing us personally, and us knowing Him through a profession of faith in Jesus Christ

IV. Living Hope

- Kings decree expressed this hope vs 9 “who knows God may turn and relent”
 - 1) Hope is seen in the limit of forty days given, God may yet reconsider
 - 2) Jonah’s own deliverance argued that Jonah’s God was merciful
 - 3) They saw behind all of God’s dealings, the reality that He is a God of love.