

EZEKIEL 36:22-32

LESSON: A SPIRIT-FILLED HEART — September 24, 2017

SYNOPSIS:

Again the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, calling him “Son of man, when the people of Israel began living in their own land, defiling it by their conduct and their actions. So God poured out His wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. He dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries. God judged them according to their conduct and their actions. Wherever they went among the nations they profaned God’s holy name, for it was said of them, *‘These are the Lord’s people, and yet they had to leave His land.’* God had concern for His holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone ((36:16-21 NIV).

LESSON: I. HONORING GOD’S NAME Ezekiel 36:22-23

36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. There were questions as to whether God would actually care for and bless the nation Israel; the one He had chosen. So, God tells Ezekiel to speak to the house of Israel. God wants them to know the reason He will bring them back again. It’s not because they deserved it, for they had disrespected Him; defiled His name; disobeyed Him. They were scattered among the heathen (36:19); they entered the heathen and profaned His holy name (36:20); God had pity (concern) for His holy name (36:21), and now, God sends His messenger Ezekiel to the house of Israel (36:22). It was because God is protecting His holy name. The Lord is concerned about the integrity of His name; His character; His holiness which was profaned. God was concerned about the salvation not only of His people, but also of the whole world. To allow His people to remain in sin and be permanently destroyed by their enemies would lead other nations to conclude that their heathen gods were more powerful than Israel’s God (Isa. 48:11). His reputation among the nations of the world counted.

36:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. God is still speaking to Ezekiel and acknowledges that He will sanctify His great name. He will bring honor to the holiness of His great name; He will vindicate the holiness of His great name. The only One who can is God! His creation went into the midst of the heathen territory and began to profane God’s great name. But God says the heathen shall know that He is Lord. And they will see this when He is sanctified (*consecrated, hallowed*) in His people before the eyes of the heathen.

II. HEARTS RENEWED Ezekiel 36:24-27

36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

your own land. God says He alone will be sanctified, honored, and vindicated when He (1) takes Israel from among the heathen, the very ones He scattered and dispersed them to. Then He alone will (2) gather them out of all countries, and then alone (3) bring them into their own land. This is physical restoration before the eyes of the heathen.

36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. God is not through. The physical return of His people was not enough, but He then will now (4) sprinkle clean water upon them, thereby cleansing and purifying them from all their filthiness and idols that were attached to them. This is spiritual cleansing before the eyes of the heathen.

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. God is not through yet for He not only will cleanse them, He will give them a new heart and spirit which He will place within them, thereby removing the stony heart (the hard nature) out of their flesh. This and the next verse is spiritual regeneration God performs. He moves from external to internal with the gift of a new heart and new spirit.

36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. By God putting His Spirit within them, it causes them to walk (live) in His statutes (Laws), keep and do His judgments (respect and observe His ordinances). However, the outer purification (36:25) will be no use without the inner disposition (36:27) to live rightly before God. The connection of water (36:25) and Spirit (36:27) lies behind John 3:5. *"I will put my Spirit within you"* predicts an effective inward work of God in the New Covenant—*"...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit..."*

III. HOPE OF RESTORATION Ezekiel 36:28-32

36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. The land that God gave to Israel's fathers will be the land they will dwell in. Now that's symbolic because there is hope! They will be His people and He will be their God. God wants worship, praise and right living from His people. In turn they will live on the same land given to their fathers.

36:29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. God knows the wickedness of man, but He gives hope, for He will still save them from all their uncleanness. At this moment He's saying that all their impurities that defile them will be cleansed away. God will call for the corn, that is, send His Word to the harvest of increase, and allow no famine to come upon them.

36:30 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. There will be a multiplication of their fruit trees and an increase of their fields so that they will no longer bear or suffer the disgrace of famine among the heathen nations. Famine is one of those plagued instruments of chastisement that came upon Israel because of their wickedness, but now fruitfulness in the land.

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36:31 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. When God does all this, Israel should be very repentant. And the first step to having a repentant heart would be them remembering their own evil ways and doings that weren't good. They should loathe (*abhor and detest*) themselves in their own sight for their iniquities and for their abominations, and have a grateful heart for God's response.

36:32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. God says it again that he does all of this not for the sake of the house of Israel, but for His sake, for He says, "*Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways.*" The people had become so callous that they had lost all sensitivity to sin. First they had to remember (36:31) their sins. Then despise sin, and finally repent of sin. God is also speaking to us today, for we too may become insensitive to certain sins. Recognize sin for what it is. It displeases God, so ask for forgiveness.

SUMMARY:

God wants the house of Israel to know the reason He will bring them back again. It's not because they deserved it, for they had disrespected Him; defiled His name; and disobeyed Him. It is because God will sanctify; will bring honor to the holiness of His great name; He will vindicate the holiness of His great name. He's the only One who can! When they went into the midst of the heathen territory, His creation profaned His great name. But God says the heathen shall know that He is Lord for before their very eyes He will be sanctified in His people Israel (36:22-23).

He will take Israel from among the heathen, the very ones He scattered and dispersed. Then He alone will gather them out of all countries, and then bring them into their own land. He will now sprinkle clean water upon them, thereby cleansing and purifying them from all their filthiness and idols that were attached to them. God is not through yet, for He will give them a new heart and spirit which He will place within them, thereby removing the stony heart (the hard nature) out of their flesh. By God putting His Spirit within them, it causes them to walk (live) in His statutes (Laws), keep and do His judgments (respect and observe His ordinances) (36:24-27).

The land that God gave to Israel's fathers will be the land they will dwell in. This is the hope they need! They will be His people and He will be their God. God knows the wickedness of man, but He gives hope, for He will still save them from all their uncleanness. All their impurities that defile them will be cleansed away. God will call for the corn, that is, send His Word to the harvest of increase, and allow no famine to come upon them. There will be a multiplication of their fruit trees and an increase of their fields so that they will no longer bear or suffer the disgrace of famine among the heathen nations. When God does all this, Israel should be very repentant. They should loathe (*abhor and detest*) themselves in their own sight for their iniquities and for their abominations and have a grateful heart for God's response. God does all of this not for the house of Israel's sake, but for His sake, for He says, "*Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways.*" (36:28-32).