

Pln09 - **Exile & The Promise of Restoration** - **Eze 36-37**

We're **Following** Francis **Chan's Book** - **MULTIPLY**
To See **God's Plan of Redemption: Genesis to Revelation**

& We have **just BLAZED thru** the **O.T.**

Today - in only our **9th Msg** - we've **Surveyed God's Plan of Redemption** - From **Genesis** to the **End of the OT**

We've **had** to **leave out A LOT** - as we've **Followed God's "Thread of Redemption"** - thru **39 Books** (incl'd'g today)

But **our Goal** in this **study** has been to **Specifically "Connect The Dots"** . . .

To see the **One Single Scarlet Thread of Redemption Running** from **Beginning to End** of the **Bible**

& so **Today** - we **CONTINUE 'Connecting the Dots'**
& **Seeing** that **THREAD of Redemption** . . .

EVEN tho our **Focus** today - is on the **CONSEQUENCES**
of Israel's **Repeated REJECTION of GOD**

& we're going to see a very difficult 'Double Truth' today

- 1) God **WILL** bring His **Promise** & His **Plan To Pass**
- 2) There **ARE Consequences** for **Rejecting God**

Let's Pray

Here's how it's worked out So Far

God Made a Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

The Nation of Israel Grew in Egypt - under Slavery

God Delivered Israel from Egypt - & that Slavery

God Made a Covenant with Moses - called The Law

God Enabled Israel to Conquer the Promised Land

God Made a Covenant with King David - *an Eternal Covenant*

That's an Incredible History of God's COVENANTS with Israel

Some UN-CONDITIONAL - Some CON-DITIONAL

& looking at THE BIG PICTURE - Here's how it worked out

Time & Time & Time again - GOD WAS FAITHFUL to keep
His Promise to the People of Israel

Everything God promised to do - He was Doing (*& still is*)

God was keeping His Side of ALL The Covenants

Israel however - was doing Just the OPPOSITE

When we look at Israel - Sometimes we wonder if they EVER kept up
THEIR SIDE - Of ANY of their Conditional Covenants w/ God

Israel's Rebellion & Unbelief started when the Bodies of
the Egyptians were still floating to the surface of the Red Sea

AS SOON as Israel was across the Red Sea
they began Grumbling, Complaining & Rebelling against God

At Mt Sinai - they had a campfire one night & ended up
creating a Gold Calf to Worship instead of God

& it seems like it all goes DOWNHILL from there !!!

That **Generation Rebelled SO MUCH**

God **couldn't allow** them **into** the **Promised Land**

But God **STILL Remained Faithful** to them - **Even while** they **Wandered** in the **Wilderness** till they Died

& **After God DID** deliver the **Promised land** to Israel - **AS SOON** as **Joshua Died** - the **People immed** began **turning** form **the Lord**

Thru-out Israel's History - They were **Constantly Rebelling** **Against God** - & Joining **With** the **Pagan nations** around them

Israel **DID** have **Times** of **Repentance** & **Returning** to the Lord - **Generally** whenever **God** would **Raise up a DELIVERER**

But **time** after **time** - The **people** would **Again REJECT God** & **Embrace** the **Idols** & the **Ways of the World** around them

AND SO (pls hear me) - God Brought A DOUBLE TRUTH to Pass

#1) **God Remained FAITHFUL** to Israel

2) **Israel Experienced the CONSEQUENCES** of their Sin

When the People of God - Experience **CONSEQUENCES of Sin**
It **Does Not Nullify** the **FAITHFULNESS of God**

PLUS - God had **PROMISED ISRAEL** - **UP FRONT**

EXACTLY What would **happen IF they Did** - **What they DID**

Back in **Deuteronomy** (**2nd Giving** of the Law)

When **Israel** was on the **Edge** of the **Promised Land**

In DEUT 27 - God had Moses split Israel on two sides of a Valley
6 tribes on Mt Gerizim & 6 Tribes on Mt Ebal

The Valley Formed a Natural Amphitheater - & Strong Visual Aide
for God's Promises of EITHER - BLESSING or CURSING

So - w/ HALF Israel on One Side - & HALF on the Other . . .

in Deut 27-28 - God makes Some Guaranteed Promises

He Promises BLESSING if Israel will FOLLOW Him

He Promises CURSING if Israel REJECTS Him

Remember - this was BEFORE Israel even
Crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land

God TOLD them - Very Vividly - What would happen to them
if they REJECTED God - & Followed after the World

One of the KEY Promises of God - That WOULD come to pass
if Israel Rejected God - is found in

Deuteronomy 28:36 - & v's 47-48 (FROM NLT)

36 "The Lord will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone!

. . .

*47 If you do not serve the Lord your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received,
48 you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you. You will be left hungry, thirsty, naked, and lacking in everything. The Lord will put an iron yoke on your neck, oppressing you harshly until he has destroyed you.*

**God was Faithfully Fulfilling His Unconditional Covenant with Israel
AND - God was Promising Consequences - if Israel Rejected Him**

**& Israel DID Reject God - Over, & Over, & Over Again
& God DID Fulfill His Promise of Consequences**

HERE'S HOW IT WENT DOWN

God had firmly established Israel in the Promised Land
Under King David (we saw that last week)

King David's son - SOLOMON had built the Temple of the Lord

In the NEXT Generation - The Generation of Solomon's Son
Israel Fully & Completely REJECTED God - Period!

TWO Generations from the Rule of King David
Israel had Completely Turned from God (*it started w/ Solomon*)

Read 1KINGS 11 - to see this Prophesied

Israel's Demise begins with a CIVIL WAR

10 Tribes Break Away from 2 Tribes

10 Tribes in the north called ISRAEL

2 Tribes in the South Called JUDAH

Read about their Constant WAR with each other in 1Kin 12-15

The Northern Kingdom (10 Tribes) immediately became
Godless & Pagan Worshippers

The Southern Kingdom (2 Tribes) had a few Godly Kings
but ultimately ALSO became Completely Godless

This was an Awful & Terrible Time (Spiritually) for Israel
& it lasts so long it's Mind-Boggling

You can read all the UGLINESS from 1KINGS 12 ALL the way
to 2KINGS 17 - that's 28 CHPTRS !!!

& even tho Israel as a whole had completely turned from God
God was STILL WITH THEM

The Most FAMOUS Prophets for God during this time
were ELIJAH - & ELISHA

& they, & other Prophets, were constantly Calling Israel Back to God
ALL during this time of Civil War & the Divided Kingdom

But Finally - God's Promise of CONSEQUENCE - HAD to come

God Promised Israel - Way Back in Deut 28 - If they Rejected Him
& Turned From Him - He would send them into Exile . . .

That they would again be Slaves to their Enemies

That God would REMOVE THEM from the Promised Land
& COMPLETELY CRUSH them as a Nation

& Ultimately - God KEEPS His Promises . . .

But - - During that time - The Book of HOSEA was written

& we see God's Unbelievable COMPASSION

For His people who're BENT on Rejecting Him

Hosea 11:8–10 (NLT)

8 *“Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? . . . My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows.*

9 *No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy.*

10 *For someday the people will follow me . . .*

& in that last line is a HINT - of HOW God's Unconditional Covenant LASTS - even thru His people's rejection of Him

But - Now - in 2KIN 17 - It was Finally TIME -

for the Consequences to FALL - For Israel's Rejection of God

Turn to 2Kin 17 - This is the Beginning of God's Judgment Finally FALLING on Israel (*read the Ch later*)

2Kin17 explains so much - that it's hard to SKIM thru . . .

I'm going to read portions - from ESV - so you can follow

2 Kings 17:6–23 (ESV)

6 *In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria (North), and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria . . .*

7 *And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared (worshipped) other gods*

8 *and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel . . .*

9 *And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.*

11 (end of v.11) . . . *And they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger,*

12 and they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this."

13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes . . .

14 But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God.

15 They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false (themselves) . . .

16 And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God . . .

. . .

18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight . . .

. . .

23 (End of 23) . . . So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

This is the **Beginning of the Exile**

First - The Northern Tribes were taken into Captivity into Assyria

& Then - 100 yrs later - The Southern Tribes were taken into Captivity into BABYLON

The **Final Fall of Jerusalem** & the **Southern Tribes**
Being **Taken** into **Captivity** - Occurs in **2Kin 25**

If **You've heard** of the "**The Babylonian Captivity**"
This is it - & **THIS** is **WHY** - **Israel Continually REJECTED God**

Now - Here is what is MIND-BLOWING

**MOST of the Remaining Books of the O.T. - from 1Chronicles
to the END of the OT - *(NOT incl'd'g Job to S.O.S)***

But **MOST** of the **other remaining books** in the **O.T.** were written
either **Just BEFORE** - **DURING** - or **AFTER** . . .

**this MASSIVE Judgment of God of Throwing His People
OUT of the Promised Land & INTO Captivity in Babylon**

That's about **20 BOOKS** of **the O.T.** **Written during** this
intense time of **Judgment from God** for **Israel's Disobedience**

& **EVERY ONE** of those Books - **IN Some way**
Speaks of **God's Faithfulness** to Israel !! . . .

Written IN THE MIDST of **God's Justly Due Judgment**
upon **Israel** - for **their Rejection** of Him

God **still showed** His **Steadfast Love** to them (*Hesed*) - He **still**
Pursued them - He **called them back** into **Relationship** w/ Him

Israel had **completely Turned from God** - **Abandoned God**
& they were **Living in the Consequences** of that

But **God Always remained FAITHFUL** to His **People**

& **Israel's Rebellion** & **Rejection of God**
Did NOT Sway God's Plan - **ONE BIT**

It Was As If - He Already Knew They Were Going To Do It

EZE 36-37 are **Great Chapters** for you to see
God's Continued Faithfulness to His people - *read them*

In **EZE 36** **God** makes it **clear**: It's **NOT** because Israel **DESERVES** it

But **it's because** of God's **HOLY NAME** - Because of **Who God IS** -
that God is **going** to **bring His Plan** to **Pass FOR (& Thru) Israel**

Ezekiel 36:22 (ESV)

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

NOT because **THEY** (or we) **Deserve it** - But **because** of **WHO God is**
THAT is **why** - God **WILL bring His plan** to **PASS** !!

& **SO** - **Because** of **HIS NAME'S Sake** - **because** of **WHO God is**

God says to Israel in - Ezekiel 36:24–28 (ESV)

24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

THAT is God - **Being Faithful** to His people - **Even In the Midst**
of their **Disobedience** & **Rebellion**

GOD'S PLAN IS STILL ON TRACK !!

In **SO MANY** of the **Prophetic passages** (like **this one** in **EZE 36**)
God REAFFIRMS His **Covenant** with His **people**

EVEN in the **Midst** of them Rejecting Him
AND Suffering the **Consequences**

LST WK we read from **EZE 37** (the Nxt Ch) - (*should read it all*)

Ezekiel 37:24–28 (NLT)

24 “My servant David (metaphor for Jesus) will be their king, and they will have only one shepherd . . .

25 They will live in the land I gave my servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived. They . . . will live there forever . . .

And my servant David (metaphor) will be their prince forever.

26 And I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant . . . and I will put my Temple among them forever.

27 I will make my home among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

28 And when my Temple is among them forever, the nations will know that I am the Lord, who makes Israel holy.”

But **here's** the **POINT** for **TODAY** . . .

As we CLOSE the **O.T.** - **THAT Had not happened**

For **600 Years** - From the **Captivity in Babylon**
& **Even Thru** a **Mediocre Return** to the **Promised Land** . . .

For **600 yrs** of **Hearing** the **Prophets** - For the **Entire REST**
of the **the O.T.** - **THIS had NOT YET happened**

Israel was **WAITING, WAITING, WAITING** . . .

& While they were waiting - the Prophets were telling them
exactly WHAT was going to happen

Turn BACK 2 Books to JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 31:31–33 (ESV)

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

WHAT (WHO) ARE ALL THE PROPHETS POINTING TO ???

As we close out GOD’S PLAN in the O.T.

In our last Two Msg’s - We’ve Seen these Two Things;

1) (1st wk) God would SEND a MESSIAH

An Eternal King in the Line of David

2) (this wk) God will MAKE a NEW COVENANT with His People
that would truly enable them to serve Him

& from the moment of the BIRTH of Jesus Christ
Jesus Demonstrated that He was God’s Messiah

Jesus Proved He was Israel’s True Eternal King

& then - the night before He was Crucified - Jesus gathered His Disciples together to celebrate the Passover . . .

& Remember the Passover was the Picture of God's Ultimate Redemption in Jesus Christ (*blood of lamb*)

& on this Passover Night - Jesus took the Bread & the Wine . . .

& He Made it clear - These elements of the Passover actually Represented His Body & Blood

& when Jesus took the cup He said *"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."*

For 600 years

Israel had been Promised TWO things by the Prophets:

#1) God would send them a Messiah,
an Eternal King in the Line of David

#2) God would make a New Covenant with them
that would enable them (& us) to truly SERVE HIM

& God KEPT those Promises

God DID send a MESSIAH - His name is Jesus

God DID send a NEW COVENANT - *in His Blood*
that enables us to truly Serve God

JUST AS He Promised Israel He would DO

Pls - REMEMBER this Vs - About the God who LOVES YOU

2 Timothy 2:13 (NLT)

13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

& Remember this - About the New Covenant in Jesus Christ

Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

As we enter the N.T. Part of God’s Plan of Redemption

Let’s be CLEAR on ONE Thing . . .

JESUS hasn’t CHANGED Anything

He has FULFILLED Everything

Let’s Pray