

Ezekiel 35-37 – 1 November 2015

Intro – Started in chapter 33 with the final conquest of Judah by Babylon and how God begins to show them the way out.

This future restoration of Israel is the perfect picture of God's eternal plan to restore a sinner to Himself.

We've seen –

Chapter 33 – Ezekiel appointed to warn the people of God's workings. Telling them the God has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live”.

There's always a herald (ie John the Baptist)

Chapter 34 – God finally stripping away the bad shepherds and prophesy's of Himself coming to Shepherd them.

We can always look straight towards God for help

“I will lift up my eyes, where does my help come from, my help comes from the Lord.”

Today God shows us 2 more parts of Israel's final sanctification

#1 Prophesied defeat of their closest familiar foe, their brother Esau.

#2 Restoration of the Promised Land to fruition

Next week chapter 37 shows us...

#3 Restoration of all of Israel (Judah & Israel) with a new spirit

Let's look at

#1 Prophesied defeat of their closest familiar foe, their brother Esau. *This is a picture of the flesh finally being defeated.*

Chapter 35:1-5

1. The flesh hates anything to do with the things of God. They can't coexist.

2. Just as the Edomites, the flesh wants to kill your spirit and take over your life. It's not just a little indulgence here or there.

Chapter 35:6-9

1. The land today is a part of SW Jordan and lay desolate and desert today.
2. In fact the last Edomite to be known in history was Herod.
 - a. Herod, the flesh, was infiltrating Israel infecting them with sin.
 - b. Christ puts an end to the flesh

Chapter 35:10-15

1. The flesh is against God's plan for his people and this is the same as being against God Himself.
2. When we sin, we sin against God Himself.
 - a. The Scribes rightly said, "Who can forgive sins but God?" (Luk 5:21)

- b. Joseph / Potiphar's wife – “How can I do this great evil and sin against God?”
- c. David said, “Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned.” (Psa 51)

*When the flesh is put to death at salvation, something else wonderful starts to happen. God begins to provide the resources that we need to walk in His will and delight in Him.

Let's look at

#2 Restoration of the Promised Land to fruition (This is our walk of sanctification)

Chapter 36:1-8

1. As with any sinner, in the time of Israel's calamity, their resources and land were laid desolate. Now during the time of salvation, with the flesh put to death, all the provisions that God naturally wants to provide are coming back for them.

2. For “they are at hand to come”.
 - a. “...It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him...” (I Joh 3:2)
 - b. Ya see, God gives us the provisions for us to become like Him.
3. This fruition of the Promised Land began around 1900.
 - a. Mark Twain in *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) say even a goat couldn’t find something to eat.
 - b. In 1906 a Jew from Russia names David Ben Gurion began agricultural communities in Galilee which lead to the nation’s founding in 1948.
 - c. As of 2013, Israel was the world’s 3rd largest exporter of citrus fruit to the world. (size of NJ)
 - d. God has done miraculous things in providing Israel with all the resources they need to see the Almighty’s hand in action!

Chapter 36:9-15

1. The end shall be more prosperous than the beginning.
2. Examples
 - a. Job
 - b. Moses
3. As we journey thru sanctification, God will enlarge of Christian influence.

Chapter 36:16-20

1. People watch how the Christians go thru hard times.
2. We don't want to be caught misrepresenting God.
3. The last thing you want is to be sitting w/ your sin on display, w/ non-believers saying, "...and he said he was a Christian..."
4. Too many pastors have fallen.
5. Too many Christians are ineffective b/c their sin is on display in front of the non-believers.

Chapter 36:21-25

1. God made an everlasting covenant w/ Israel.
2. He prophesies this promise to restore them for His own honor.
3. They will be trophies of His grace.

Chapter 36:26-30

1. A new spirit and new heart; continuing OT predictions of the New Covenant thru Jesus Christ.
2. See, this was a mystery to them.
3. To be fulfilled at the 2nd coming as in Rom 11 “all Israel shall be saved”.

Chapter 36:31

1. As Peter said at the huge catch of fish, “Depart from me Lord, I’m a sinful man.”
2. This is the natural reaction to experiencing grace.

3. When someone wrongs us, we need not, be the Spirit, think of ourselves, but think of it as an opportunity to show grace and change a life.

Chapter 36:32-38

1. Population of the land of Israel

	1553	1800	1915	1922	1945	1967	2005	2013
	Ottoman Palestine			British Mandate		Israel		
Muslims		246,300	590,000	590,890	1,061,270	289,600	1,140,600	1,658,000
Jews		24,000	83,000	83,794	553,600	2,383,600	5,313,800	6,042,000
Christians/Others		21,800	17,000	82,498	149,650	103,100	261,600	318,000
Total	205,000	275,000	689,275	757,182	1,764,520	2,776,300	6,990,700	8,018,000

2. Jewish Population

Year	Population	% in the land of Israel
1880	7,800,000	
1900	10,600,000	
1922	14,400,000	0.58%
1925	14,800,000	
1939	16,728,000	
1945	11,000,000	5.03%
1950	11,297,000	
1955	11,800,000	
1960	12,079,000	
1970	12,585,000	18.94%
1980	12,819,000	
1990	12,868,000	
2000	12,900,000	
2010	13,428,300	39.57%
2014	13,900,000	43.47%

3. Thru all the enemy attacks the Jewish people have miraculously excelled and enlarged...for God's glory.

Conclusion:

So God is continuing to restore Israel right before our very eyes.

Do you not think that He knows how to keep you in the palm of His hand?

For the great grace He's bestowed on us...

#1 – Let us not let the dead crucified Edomite flesh rule over us as Herod did.

#2 – Let us use all the great spiritual blessings and resources that He's blessed us with for His glory.

So that this leaky pot, called us, can just point to Him and tell a lost world how amazing He is.