

Ezekiel 35-36:15– 17 April 2025

“Preparing The Land To Be Fruitful”

Introduction

- *1st Section was (Chap 1-3): Ezekiel’s Commission
- *2nd Section (Chap 4-24): Prophecies Against Judah
- *3rd Section (Chap 25-32): Prophecies Against Nations
- *4th Section (Chap 33-39) Of Israel’s Restoration
- *5th Section (Chap 40-48) Of the Millennial Kingdom
- *This 4th section of Israel’s restoration really mirrors & prototypes the restoration of any church or individual
 - *Chap 33-34 – we see the need of good leaders
 - *Chap 35-36 – we see the need to prepare the land for fruit production
 - *Chap 36-37 – we see the need for a unified new heart & life of the people
 - *Chap 38-39 – we see the need to trust in the Lord thru the attacks of the enemy
- *Here in Chap 35-36, we’ll see two stages of how God prepares the land for Israel & metaphorically for us**

#1 – We need to have the flesh removed (Chap 35)

Intro – Chap 35 is a prophecy of Mt Seir or Edom's destruction

Read Chap 35:1-3a

1. This prophecy against Mt Seir isn't b/c of the mountains but b/c of the people of the mountains
 - a. The land & mts are services to the people
 - b. God will prosper or destroy a land based on its people and his plan for its people
2. This was homeland to the Edomites (Esau)
 - a. Israel's twin brother Esau hated his birthright
 - i. We see Israel (Jacob) moving to then take that birthright & blessing
 - ii. So Esau vowed to kill Israel ASAP
 - b. Thru the years the Edomites fought Israel
 - i. Saul (1Sam:14:47). Solomon (1Kin 11:14–22). Jehoshaphat (2Chr 20:1–23). Jehoram (2Kin 8:21). Ahaz (2Ch_28:17)
 - c. Last known Edomite was King Herod

- i. Interesting prophecy in Jer 49:10-11 – their widows & orphans are invited to join Israel
3. Though Zeke spoke (25:12-14) a brief judgement against Edom, this is a future ‘*prophecy*’

Read Vs 3b-4

1. The thrice mentioned emphasis is *against*
2. Many ministries have an element of destruction before there can be restoration
 - a. Read Jer 1:10 – destroy then plant
 - b. It’s the same w/ the Lord (Read John 15:1-2 & 5)
 - i. Long before mentioning fruit, Jesus talks of cleansing
3. Chap 35 is one last cleansing before the land of Israel is set to be restored

Read Vs 5-9

1. During the final Babylonian invasion of Judah, Edom sided w/ & helped Babylon wipe out Judah

2. Remember the idea that Israel is a pic of God's chosen one & Esau his brother is pic of the flesh
 - a. The flesh hates everything to do w/ God
 - b. Flesh always wants to dominate what's God's
 - c. Flesh needs eradicated, they can't coexist

Read Vs 10-13

1. The 2 nations, of course are the divided kingdom of Israel & Judah
 - a. Much more on this in Chap 37
2. God deals w/ them *according to their anger*
 - a. These phrases mean, "I'll deal w/ you in the same way that you've dealt with them"
 - b. Jesus said (Read Mat 7:1-2) – The type of decision & measure of force you apply, comes back on you

Read Vs 14-15

1. As we've seen so many times, as justice is actuated, it is seen as right and proper
2. Now it's only when our flesh is put to death that we can begin to produce good things

#2 – We need to endure a season of preparation with patience (Chap 36:1-15)

Read Chap 36:1-5

1. A land or area of land in the Bible always symbolizes the place of mission & purpose
 - a. The enemy of the flesh (Esau) wants to take our land, our purpose & mission
 - b. Instead of conquering the land & winning souls, he would have us huddled in our room devoted to selfishness
2. The soil itself symbolizes the heart of man
 - a. If there's only stony & thorny soil, the land is useless
 - b. If there's a work happening in the soil, then we can expand into the land & it becomes a blessing
3. As with Israel (physically), so too w/ us (spiritually), the Lord has given us a land of promise (specific purposes & mission)

- a. Turn to Exo 23:20-33
- b. As we begin taking land, there's challenges
- c. Don't let the flesh rob us of all that the Lord would have us to grow into

Read Vs 6-12

- 1. *Never again go w/o Israelites in the land*
 - a. This can only be addressing Israel's regathering in the early 1900s
 - b. Cannot be of any earlier regathering
- 2. From vs 8 *they will soon come*
 - a. God is wanting to prepare the land now for the benefit of people later
 - b. We often don't get to *later* & aren't having our land prepared, b/c we're distracted w/ flesh
 - c. Read Heb 12:1 – Lay it aside
- 3. Now for Israel, this fruition was fantastic in the 1900s
 - a. Mark Twain in 'Innocents Abroad' (1869)
 - i. It's "a blistering, naked & treeless land"

- ii. “Even goats couldn’t find something to eat”
- iii. “A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds ...a silent mournful expanse ...a desolation ...we never saw a human being on the whole route”

b. In 1906 a Russian Jew, David Ben Gurion, began agricultural communities in Galilee which led to the nation’s founding in 1948

- i. “In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles”

c. As of 2013, Israel was the world’s 3rd largest exporter of citrus fruit to the world & 3rd for exporting flowers to Europe (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!

4. From vs 11, Israel will do better than at the start

- a. Interesting how a restoration is often better than having no pain at all

- i. Job – more blessed in the end w/ family
 - ii. Moses – Thought he would lead a great earthly nation, but after restoration led a great heavenly nation
 - iii. Think of the Prodigal Son...& his brother
5. As we journey thru pain & sanctification, God enlarges our Christian purpose, mission & influence
- a. Just as the land of Israel in the 1900 became ready to host God's people & do great things once again

Read Vs 13-15

- 1. So the miraculous agricultural development of the land of Israel in the 1900s is just the beginning of God removing the shame that Israel has faced
- 2. Next time we will develop the continuing restoration of, not just the land, but also the people of Israel

Conclusion

So the Lord has so much more for Israel to do yet
He's aligning them to fulfill His will in the near future
He's also working on us, to prepare our land to
become fruitful

1. **We need to have the flesh removed**
2. **We need to endure a season of preparation
with patience**

As we do that, next week we'll see a unified new
people that stand up prepared to serve the Lord