

- This word from the Lord to Ezekiel comes 20yrs into the Babylonian exile ... This word is further explanation of what the Lord spoke through Jeremiah in **Jr31** – the promise of a new covenant that God Himself will establish with those He gathers to Himself ... Again, needs to be emphasized: the new covenant extends beyond Jewish people ... This is the covenant NT consistently points to as being what Jesus inaugurates thru His death and resurrection ... When the prophets speak, they use terms and realities the people can understand and process – though often limited and incorrect ... What the OT people fail to see is that God's message thru the prophets ultimately transcends beyond the Jewish people, physical territory, rebuilt temple, political kingdom ... Again, the NT interprets the OT
- Why is God issuing a NC ... 1) Old Covenant (OC) was broken; 2) OC was insufficient: never perfectly fulfilled; forced need for greater covenant ... **He9-10** – OC could purify outwardly, but not inwardly; purification was only temporal ... Daily sin offerings were made, yet inward guilt of sin and captivity to sin remained ... God's restoration thru NC accomplishes two objectives: 1) provides radical change of heart from within; 2) vindicates God's Name ... Every aspect of NC is fulfilled by God Himself (*I will* statements) ... Every exile is given a promise of **a future and a hope** (**Jr29:11**) ... The expectation is that when God's Messiah arrives, He will initiate this covenant – **Mi3:1, Mk11:1-11**
- **Ez36** expresses the NC in ways that speaks of a person being justified and sanctified by God ... He calls them to Himself ... He washes them clean – removes their impurity, removes their sin (Justification) ... He places within them a new heart and a new spirit – they are a new creation, possess God's own Spirit, ability to do what is right, ability to follow God, ability to know God and fellowship with God (Sanctification) ... **Jn3:5** – what Jesus calls being born-again ...
 - For us to meet the obligations of the NC, God doesn't lower the bar or change His expectations ... Instead, He raises us up so that we can meet them, and He does this by placing each of us in Christ (Alec Motyer quote) ...
- In a dramatic way, **Ez37** illustrates God calling a people to Himself and bringing them from death to life through the power of His Spirit ... (**WRIGHT**) the point of what God is communicating thru Ezekiel: the Lord will create for Himself one people, who will live under the reign of one King who is their Shepherd, and they will enjoy the security and blessings of His Kingdom ... **My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people** ... This phrase embodies every covenant promise and Kingdom promise ... It proclaims the completion of what God has set out to accomplish from eternity past: to redeem creation thru Christ, thus establishing His Kingdom on earth
 - The OT vision of God's people has always included people from **many nations** (**Zc2:11**) ... Within the greater population there has always been a remnant God has been working thru and on their behalf – **Is11:10-11** (**Jn12:32**), **Mc7:18-20**, **Jr23:3** (**Jn10**)
- As the Jewish people return from exile and begin the work of rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple, it doesn't take long for them to fall back into old habits ... The prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are sent to encourage and warn the people ... God is calling them to a deeper faith – to see beyond their present experience to a greater glory yet to come ... God remains to be faithful in bringing about what He has declared ... This is how the NT begins