

### CONTINUED WORD ABOUT EDOM

**36:1-2** *“And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because the enemy has spoken against you, ‘Aha!’ and, ‘The everlasting heights have become our possession,””*

**Prophecy to the mountains of Israel** - While the remaining prophecy of Ezekiel will focus on the restoration of Israel, both the land and the nation, chapter 36 lays down what will be the required condition before the Lord will bring these things to pass. The Lord will bring Israel to a state of repentance and regeneration before Israel can enjoy her national blessings. Again the focus is on a literal restoration of both the land and the people which will be associated with the return and reign of Jesus Christ on David’s throne in Jerusalem.

While **the enemy** here is still Edom, any nation or people throughout history including our modern time, that would lay claim to God’s land is His enemy, not simply Israel’s. Any nation or people who would seek the harm of the Israelites are the enemy of the Lord. Today the majority of those actually seeking to harm Israel and take the land are Muslim. But even those nations who would side with the Muslim’s are equally guilty. What is interesting is how the propaganda machine always presents a false view of the pervasive conflict in the region today. Most will report that Israel and the Islamic enemies are equally guilty of some kind of sectarian violence when Israel is always in a “response” position to the constant threat and attacks from the enemy who claims to be peaceful.

**36:3-7** *“therefore prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “For good reason they have made you desolate and crushed you from every side, that you would become a possession of the rest of the nations and you have been taken up in the talk and the whispering of the people.””’ ‘Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD. Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the forsaken cities which have become a prey and a derision to the rest of the nations which are round about, therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.” ‘Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.’ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults.’”’*

God told Abram *“I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse.”* This has never been taken back or altered. It stands true today. Remember that these promises were made before the Mosaic Covenant or the Law. The Mosaic law was never given in order to sustain the unconditional covenants and the New Covenant according to Hebrews made the Mosaic Covenant obsolete (Heb 8:9,13). Notice that it is not just the actual acts of aggression that the Lord is pointing out but that the enemies of Israel have slandered them as they take them up in talk and whispering, insults and scorn. Behind such actions to claim what is ultimately God’s land and to destroy God’s people is the Satanic agenda to prevent all future promises of the Messianic reign of Christ from Israel from coming to pass. God commits Himself to an oath to pass judgement on the nations

who would stand in such a position of scorn and aggression.

### THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL TO BE BLESSED

**36:8-11** *“But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt. I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.”*

Recall that when God used Babylon to destroy Jerusalem, the mighty trees were destroyed and the land was stripped of everything. After the subsequent Roman invasions of Jerusalem the land of promise would have been described as even worse. A barren waste land accompanied only by nomads yet no native bounty or peoples to speak of. The Lord’s oath of restoration to the land includes conditions that supercede any state of blessing that the land had experienced before.

**Better than at the first** - would be a reference to the land that was flowing with milk and honey when the Israelites were first brought to the land to spy it out. Even after the return from Babylonian exile, the land still had not experienced anything like the conditions that were present in Joshua’s time. The land had also not seen any evidence of such promises until the United Nations voted to re-establish the Jews in the land and called it Israel. While many of the signs of these blessings have begun to blossom pointing to the fact that the Lord is “prepping” the scene for the final act, no claim can be made that these promises are now fulfilled because that is only possible when every aspect of the promises are true at the same time. Today Israel has a multitude of enemies and scorn.

**36:12-15** *“Yes, I will cause men—My people Israel—to walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again bereave them of children.’ Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because they say to you, “You are a devourer of men and have bereaved your nation of children,” therefore you will no longer devour men and no longer bereave your nation of children,’ declares the Lord GOD. “I will not let you hear insults from the nations anymore, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will you cause your nation to stumble any longer,” declares the Lord GOD.”*

Still speaking to the land as a metaphor, Ezekiel personifies the land as being responsible for depriving the Israelites of children speaking to its barren waste and to the bloodshed of all of the children and adults through either war or pagan practices. In it’s condition under judgement it was viewed as a forsaken place and mocked for the former infamy of being the land of the people whose God is the Lord. As Ezekiel is given the language by the Lord the terms possess and inheritance are used reminding any who hear the words that the nation and the land are synonymous.

## RECALLING ISRAEL'S EXILE

**36:16-21** *“Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them. When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD; yet they have come out of His land.’ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.”*

The best way to remember anything is through repetition. The Lord rehearses briefly the situation of the whole history of Israel's sin and His judgement of it. In comparing their sin to the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity, He is reminding the whole of the nation of the Levitical law and their total defilement in light of it through idolatry and the shedding of blood. He says that they defiled the land. They are completely unworthy of any of the promises or blessing that the Lord has extended to them. Notice how all of Israel's judgement is described in the past tense which gives the whole summary of their qualification for God's mercy and favor; they have none in any human capacity.

Again we see the bigger picture of the sin of man through the history of Israel. Even the very nation who is called by God's name is unworthy of His favor. Paul writes in Romans that all men under the law are rendered speechless before God being both accountable for their actions and having no justification. But there is something else that profanes the name of God. While He has to judge every person for sin, the result appears to render the Lord helpless to keep His promises to His own people because of their sin. He says His name is profaned by the world when His people are left dispersed and in their sin.

The name and reputation of the Lord is the apex of the purpose of all of history. Everything that the Lord does is for the purpose of His glory and the same is true of the future restoration of Israel. Just as Israel's future blessings are not based on their qualification, no redeemed human being is worthy of that redemption, rather God is glorified through the sacrifice of the only Man qualified to bring sinful man cleansing and justification. His name is Jesus. No one can claim that the future promises extended to Israel are void because of their sin. On that basis God would be rendered helpless to accomplish His promises to any of the redeemed.

## ISRAEL'S RESTORATION IS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS NAME

**36:22-24** *““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 My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.”*

# EZEKIEL

## “Strengthened by God”

## Session 26 - Ezekiel 36

In the name of the Lord is His character. The Lord commanded to not take His name in vain and anyone who is called by His name yet misrepresents His character does so. He is known throughout the earth by His people and while Israel deserves the punishment that has been inflicted on them, the reality is that unless they are in the land experiencing the full blessings that the Lord has promised them, God appears to be helpless to make that happen. But the Lord is able to accomplish all that He has declared in spite of what appears to be impossible.

**36:25-28** *“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”*

The future of Israel’s restoration is not fulfilled simply by them being back in the land, but will include the total transformation of their being in association with the New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34). God will 1) cleanse them from all of their sin, 2) give them a new heart - spiritual life vs. spiritual death (Eph 2), 3) give them a new spirit or desire to worship Him, and 4) the Holy Spirit will dwell in all of them enabling Israel to walk in perfect obedience to His Word. These things can only be true of a future reality for the nation, because while they are in the land, Israel has not yet trusted Christ as the Messiah and Savior but according to scripture, they will just prior to His return (Zec 12-14; Ro 11:25-27); Rev 11:13).

For those who don’t look to a literal fulfillment of the promises to Israel (as a distinct people / nation) the argument would be made that this happened at Pentecost in the birth of the church and the church through history has been the fulfillment of these promises. But Paul describes the church as a “mystery” and when he reconciles in Romans 9-11 how the purposes of God can be fulfilled even though Israel as a people was in disbelief, he came to the conclusion that the future remnant would become the whole of Israel preserved for salvation when all of the promises of God would be fulfilled to them. Joel 2: 28,29 says that all of the people of Israel will have this applied, at Pentecost only a small portion did. Listen to what Isaiah writes:

*But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, and Israel, whom I have chosen: thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, do not fear, O Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants; and they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water.’ This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’S’; and that one will call on the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, ‘Belonging to the LORD,’ and will name Israel’s name with honor. Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.”*  
(Isa 44:1-8 NASB)

# EZEKIEL

## “Strengthened by God”

## Session 26 - Ezekiel 36

**36:29-32** *“Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. I am not doing this for your sake,” declares the Lord GOD, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!””*

Prior to 1948, the land was a waste, hardly of any interest to anyone. But after Israel was established as an independent sovereign state and Jews from Europe and other places began to migrate back to their land, the land began to spring forth with life. Yet as you go to the south and the southeast, the barren waste of desert stands in stark contrast.



One of the key conditions that will be a part of the final restoration of Israel will be their repentance. No pride will be a part of the self loathing experienced by the preserved remnant as they recall their iniquity in the Lords sight. Man can only be aware of his deep shame a result of repentance and repentance has to be granted by the Lord (Acts 5:31; 11:18). While there is a growing movement within Israel toward the return to biblical Judaism, the nation as a whole rejects Jesus as Christ. So while we can look and be amazed at what is taking place in the land today, it is merely a hint of what will take place to be the full realization of these promises.

Remember that the great tribulation will be accomplished first which will result in world wide plague, famine and the destruction of fresh water and vegetation along with a great deal of infrastructure due to natural and supernatural disasters. We must be viewing a still future time for Israel.

**36:33-36** *“Thus says the Lord GOD, “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it.””*

The Millennial conditions will be similar to those of the Garden of Eden (47:1-12; Is 35:1,2; 55:13; Zech 8:12). This day is as Paul says when “all Israel will be saved”. The Lord will engineer the rebuilding of the infrastructure and cause the land to be noticed by all nations. The result will be that the nations “that are left round about you” will know that God is the Lord. It is very interesting that it is phrased that way. Many nations will be completely destroyed as the Lord judges the nations but there will be those who God preserves. There will be nations during the Millennial reign of Christ.

Today all of the surrounding nations do not “know that God is Lord” rather they cry out that “Allah is greater than!” Not even Israel, the larger secular element acknowledges Jehovah, but all will when Jesus returns and accomplishes these things. So while the church today experiences the spiritual reality of the New Covenant, the physical, historic manifestation of it as it will apply to Israel and the nations during the Millennium is to come.

**36:37-38** *“Thus says the Lord GOD, “This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock. Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the LORD.””*

The majority of humanity will perish during the great tribulation including 2/3 of the Jews. One of the most basic and foundational blessings of the Lord is bringing new life into the world. He will cause the population of the Jews to flourish during the Millennium. God told Abraham that his offspring would be like the stars in the heavens in number (Gen 15:5).