

Pentwater Bible Church

Ezekiel Message 77
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Dentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Seventy-Seven

RESTORATION OF ISRAEL TO THE LAND PT. II

March 26, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 36:16-31

¹⁶Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁷Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their way and by their doings: their way before me was as the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. ¹⁸Wherefore I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood which they had poured out upon the land, and because they had defiled it with their idols; ¹⁹and I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. ²⁰And when they came unto the nations, whither they went, they profaned my holy name; in that men said of them, These are the people of Jehovah, and are gone forth out of his land. ²¹But I had regard for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they went.

²²Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I do not this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy name, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye went. ²³And I will sanctify my great name, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, saith the Lord Jehovah, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. ²⁴For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. ²⁵And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them. ²⁸And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the grain, and will multiply it, and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye may receive no more the reproach of famine among the nations. ³¹Then shall ye remember your evil ways, and your doings that were not good; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations (ASV, 1901).

ISRAEL PROFANED THE LAND

Ezekiel 36:16-19

¹⁶Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, ¹⁷Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their way and by their doings: their way before me was as the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity, ¹⁸Wherefore I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood which they had poured out upon the land, and because they had defiled it with their idols; ¹⁹and I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them (ASV, 1901).

God again speaks to the prophet Ezekiel telling him that during the time from the Exodus to the Babylonian captivity (1440 B.C. – 586 B.C.) Israel dwelt in their own land and defiled it through their sin. Israel has been called by God His wife. (Jeremiah 3:14; Isaiah 54:1). He called Israel that because of His special selection of this small people group to bring His oracles and Messiah to this earth. He says that , *they defiled it by their way and by their doings*. Their extremely sinful behavior caused them to defile this special piece of property on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. God's sacred property known as Eretz Israel (the land Israel) has an exulted purity so that it cannot tolerate sinners who defile it. It will disgorge those who do so. God told the Jews if they defiled the land He would scatter them to other countries as He removed them.

Leviticus 26:27-33

²⁷And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; ²⁸then I will walk contrary unto you in wrath; and I also will chastise you seven times for your sins. ²⁹And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat. ³⁰And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your sun-images, and cast your dead bodies upon the bodies of your idols; and my soul shall abhor you. ³¹And I will make your cities a waste, and will bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savor of your sweet odors. ³²And I will bring the land into desolation; and your enemies that dwell therein shall be astonished at it. ³³And you will I scatter among the nations, and I will draw out the sword after you: and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste (ASV, 1901).

More specifically God warned them that He would eject any from the land as a man vomits out rancid food if they engaged in any of the abominations the Canaanites were practicing. Specifically they sacrificed their babies and young children in the fire to the pagan god Molech. Just as He ejected them He would eject the Jews too. Throughout the ages many people groups lived in the Holy Land. None was able to remain there because all were vomited out by the Lord. This will change in the Messianic Kingdom when Israel and its other inhabitants will be allowed to stay there. All will be pure going into the Kingdom at the start.

Leviticus 18:25

²⁵And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land vomiteth out her inhabitants (ASV, 1901).

Interestingly God uses the simile of a menstruating woman to describe the defilement of the land as an impurity. They violated the Mosaic Law in many ways profaning it by their conduct of bloodshed and idolatry (Ezekiel 33:25). The Mosaic Law viewed a menstruating woman as unclean during her period. Even though she was ritually defiled it was only temporary. As soon as her period was over she was no longer considered impure and her husband would resume normal intimate relations with her (Leviticus 15:25-30). In a like manner the nation Israel was distanced by God during their period of defilement through sin. God longs to have them realize their defilement and to purify themselves through repentance so that He can resume His normal desired relations with Israel, His wife. Isaiah declares this uncleanness as it pertains to the sins of Israel.

Isaiah 64:6-7

⁶For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousnesses are as a polluted garment: and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee; for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us by means of our iniquities (ASV, 1901)

The menstruating woman was declared clean after seven days of being unclean. She then takes a sin offering and a burnt offering to the priest and he makes atonement for her and then she can resume normal complete relations with her husband. (Leviticus 15:25-30). What is so important for us to see in this simile of the nation Israel to a menstruating woman is that the length of the tribulation which the earth will be defiled is seven years. At the end the Jews cry out to the one who sacrificed Himself as a sin offering for them to save them. The menstruating woman in the Mosaic Law was the one to perform the act of purification not the husband. So during the Tribulation it will be the wife of Jehovah (Israel) who is responsible for repentance not the husband (Jehovah). God will not act to force purification upon a sinner, they must change themselves. He provides the atonement of Himself for the sinners but, they have to come to Him. God longs for Israel to repent so that they can again be fully united to Him. Unfortunately it will take a massive seven year world war to cause the Jews to cry out to their Messiah Jesus, *Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord* (Psalm 118:26; Matthew 23:39).

THE JEWS PROFANED THE LORD'S HOLY NAME

Ezekiel 36:20-21

²⁰And when they came unto the nations, whither they went, they profaned my holy name; in that men said of them, These are the people of Jehovah, and are gone forth out of his land. ²¹But I had regard for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they went (ASV, 1901).

The House of Israel is singular (Verse 17) and in the rest of the verses it is plural referring to the people. In Hebrew the third person singular is rendered as He (Hebrew *Hoo*). This can be viewed as a direct reference to Jehovah who goes into exile with His people. He never leaves them. However, due to their behavior and God's judgment upon them His holy name is desecrated or profaned among the nations wherein they went in exile. The Jews enemies profaned God's name because they viewed the exiled Jews as having a God that was powerless to protect them from the invading Babylonians. These nations did and still do not understand that God Himself is the cause of the exile. He did this to them as divine retribution because of the sins of the Jews. Verse twenty-one is better rendered in Hebrew, "*I spared upon the name of My Holiness.*" He is saying that because He has a tender respect for His name which is Holy, so He will not allow it to be held up to vilification or denigration by the heathen nations for very long.

Isaiah 57:15-16

¹⁵For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. ¹⁶For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth; for the spirit would faint before me, and the souls that I have made (ASV, 1901).

The Jews should have had a special care for the name of Jehovah due to their special relationship to Him as His wife. They forgot God in Babylon and did wickedly there as they did in Israel. This is what caused the heathen to blaspheme God as they saw Him as being ineffective. The Jews were an apostate idol worshipping unclean, stiffnecked nation. The Jews rejected His word, and chose to follow the ways of the pagans by worshipping idols. Their worst sin was delivering the Lord Jesus Christ, their own Messiah-King, into the hands of the Romans. His blood was shed upon the land and they cried according to Matthew 27:25, "*His blood be upon us and upon our children.*" In fact when Pilate said, "*shall I crucify your King they said We have no king but Caesar*" (John 19:15). And as a result they were scattered among the nations in 70 and 135 AD for the final times where they also profaned His holy name (Isaiah 52:5; Romans 2:24).

ISRAEL WILL RETURN TO THE LAND

Ezekiel 36:22-24

²²Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: I do not this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy name, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye went. ²³And I will sanctify my great name, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, saith the Lord Jehovah, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. ²⁴For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land (ASV, 1901).

God's chief concern is for the glory of His name. Following that He is concerned for the welfare of His people Israel upon whom His name has been indelibly placed. Because of this He will act to cause the nations of the world to watch as He keeps His promises to the nation Israel. He began moving them back to Israel in the late 1800's in the Zionist

movement. After World War I He again facilitated additional numbers of them to return after the Ottoman Turk Caliphate lost control over the land and it was given to Great Britain in the Mandate. The mandate system was established by the League of Nations, drafted by the allied victors of World War I. It was finalized at the Paris peace conference in 1919. Following World War II the United Nations voted to reestablish the country of Israel. As a direct result of the Nazi persecutions, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted thirty-three to thirteen, with ten abstentions, in favor of a Partition Plan that created the State of Israel. On the same day, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted with a two-thirds majority to partition western Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.¹ Over seventy five percent of the land allocated to the Jews was desert. Desperate to find a haven for the remnants of European Jewry after the Holocaust, the Jewish population accepted the plan, which accorded them a diminished state. They were back in the land. Now it only remained for them to make the formal declaration of independence.

David Ben-Gurion the first Prime Minister in Tel Aviv, on May 14, 1948, proclaimed independence for the State of Israel. At four o'clock in the afternoon of May 14, 1948 the members of the provisional national council, led by David Ben-Gurion met in the Tel Aviv Art Museum. Ben-Gurion rose and read the following proclamation:

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world. Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained, faithful to it in all countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom. . .

Accordingly we, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assemble today, the day of the termination of the British Mandate of Palestine, by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called ISRAEL . With trust in Almighty God, we set out hand to this declaration, at this session of the Provisional State Council, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth day of May, 1948.

Because God alone is moving the nations of the earth to provide for a homeland for the nation Israel He is causing the world to realize that it is He who is doing this. He says, *“and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, saith the Lord Jehovah, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.”*

FUTURE ISRAEL WILL BE SINLESS

Ezekiel 36:25-31

²⁵*And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all*

¹ Laqueur, Walter , ed. *The Arab-Israeli Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. New York: Bantam Books, 1969, 113.

your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them. ²⁸And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the grain, and will multiply it, and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye may receive no more the reproach of famine among the nations. ³¹Then shall ye remember your evil ways, and your doings that were not good; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations (ASV, 1901).

This text moves from bringing them back into the land to a national conversion of every Jew that makes it through the Tribulation. Sprinkling water is by inference a reference to the Mosaic Law rite of purification (Numbers 19:17-19; Isaiah 4:4; Zechariah 13:1; Psalm 119:9). This can be viewed as a washing of water by the Word (Ephesians 5:25-27). Here in Ephesians we see God discussing the relationship of a husband to his wife and how Christ loved the Church as an example of the intimate relationship of Christ to the Church. Jesus as the Living Word of God will present the Church, His bride to Himself as a glorious church with stain or wrinkle or any such blemish but holy and blameless. As the nation Israel is the wife of Jehovah, so to is the Church the Bride of Christ.

For the Jews God is speaking of justification. God will provide them with a new heart as soon as they cry out to Him at the end of the Tribulation. The heart was first mentioned in this book of Ezekiel 11:18-20 and refers to the whole nature of all the people in the nation Israel. As Romans 11:26 says *then all Israel will be saved*. The Spirit indicated the governing principle of the minds which directs the thought and behavior. This is God's Holy Spirit and will come into them and cause His fruits to be evident (Galatians 5:22-23). This passage is a direct parallel to the New Covenant first given in Jeremiah 31:31-34. All this has not happened yet but will at the end of the Tribulation. God has explained in the past that His Spirit is connected with new directions for Israel (Ezekiel 39:29; Isaiah 44:3; 59:21; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16). The Jews will be enabled that is have the power to keep all God's Laws then.

After this blessing of God in Israel nature will see a blessing in the Messianic Kingdom too. God says, *"I will call for the grain, and will multiply it, and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye may receive no more the reproach of famine among the nations."* This is spiritual salvation and material prosperity. Supernatural fertility of the land is one of the accompaniments of the Kingdom (e.g. Isaiah 35:1-2; 55:13; Zechariah 8:12). When Israel sees all that God does for them because they finally repented and call out in belief to their Messiah they will soften into further repentance and realize the full extent of their sinful ways of the past several thousand years.

NEXT MESSAGE: GOD'S PROMISE TO RETURN ISRAEL TO THE LAND PT. III

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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