

Message #40

Ezekiel 36:1-38

Ezekiel 36 is one of the great chapters of pure grace. From chapter 36 to the end of the book in chapter 48 we learn about the amazing grace of God. Nothing in these chapters has been fulfilled yet; but all things in these chapters will be fulfilled. These chapters predict an amazing covenant of grace and peace that will feature all of the blessings of God. Israel will be a blessed nation and all nations of the world that are left (**v. 36**) after the Tribulation will stand in awe of what God has done.

GOD, IN PURE GRACE, WILL BRING ISRAEL TO HER PROMISED LAND AND POUR OUT HIS BLESSINGS ON HER AND MAKE THE LAND LIKE THE GARDEN OF EDEN NOT BECAUSE SHE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL TO HIM, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OWN NAME AND AMAZING GRACE.

When I look at myself, I can relate to these verses. God is one day going to take me to heaven and let me experience heavenly blessings. I don't deserve that. Fact is, there are times when I deserve just the opposite. But God has amazing grace and His name is on the line in fulfilling that promise so one day I will be the recipient of it.

What is seen in these verses is amazing. Now this chapter breaks down into four main topics:

TOPIC #1 – God will judge Israel's enemies. **36:1-7**

Verse 1 begins by God coming to Ezekiel and giving him His Word about the land of Israel, including the mountains. In **verse 2** we learn that many enemies have laughed at Israel and spoken out against Israel and have actually thought that Israel's land is their land. They laughed at the fact that the high places of Israel no longer belonged to Israel. Don't kid yourself, those nations know about the land promised to Israel, but they don't care.

According to **verse 3**, nations have crushed Israel and taken over her land. People all over the world hate the Jews. People all over the world talk negatively about Israel. According to **verse 4**, Israel is the derision of the nations. This will certainly be the norm during the Tribulation when the Antichrist is trying to exterminate Israel.

God says I have a message for the nations and that is I am a jealous God and Israel is My people and I am going to destroy you (**verses 4-5**). He specifically mentions "all Edom" who took much of the Promised Land as their own possession. This is another reference to Arabs who have dominated the land.

God says in **verses 6-7** that Ezekiel needs to prophesy concerning the "land of Israel." Because God is a jealous God for His people and His land, He is going to pour out His wrath on those nations that surround Israel. Israel has put up with their insults for a long, long time and God says I will bring that to an end.

TOPIC #2 – God will regather and restore Israel to her land. **36:8-15**

What is described in these verses for Israel is a dream come true. God says I am going to bring My nation Israel to her land and I will bless her. According to Deuteronomy 30:5-9, these blessings were predicted to occur in connection to a future Messianic time.

Blessing #1 - The land will bear fruit for Israel. **36:8-9a**

The land will once again be plowed and sown and will reap great harvest.

Blessing #2 - God will specifically be Israel's God. **36:9**

Blessing #3 - God will multiply Israel's number of people and places. **36:10**

People will return to the land and rebuild towns and ruins. During the Tribulation, much of this land will be demolished.

Blessing #4 - God will multiply Israel's men and animals. **36:11a**

There will be an unusual increase in human and animal population.

Blessing #5 - God will increase Israel's fruitfulness. **36:11b**

There will be an increased fertility and productivity in Israel's land.

Blessing #6 - God will cause Israel to inhabit her land. **36:11c**

Blessing #7 - God will treat Israel better than He ever has before. **36:11d**

When God does all of this, Israel will know that "I am the LORD."

Blessing #8 - God will cause His people to possess other nations. **36:12**

Other nations will not be walking over Israel; Israel will be walking over them.

Blessing #9 - God will never let Israel hear any more insults. **36:13-15a**

Verbal threats of other nations will never be heard again.

Blessing #10 - Israel will never stumble again in her relationship with God. **36:15b**

Now the end of this verse says, "declares the LORD." This is what God has declared and this is what God will do.

TOPIC #3 – Israel will know why she was punished by God. **36:16-20**

Israel needs to face her sin. Israel needs to know why things went wrong in the first place. So God tells her.

Reality #1 - When Israel was living in her own land, they defiled it. **36:17**

They walked in evil ways and did sinful things. They were unclean and involved in impure things. God does not look favorably on His people when they do not walk in His ways and are involved in unclean and impure things.

Reality #2 - God poured out His wrath on Israel for her evil. **36:18**

She sacrificed her own children to false deities and God poured out His wrath on her. But her worst sin of all is that she rejected and killed God's Son, her Savior/Messiah/King.

Reality #3 - God scattered Israel among the nations. **36:19**

This is why Israel is not in her land to this very day. God has scattered her among the nations.

Reality #4 - When Israel was scattered in the nations, they profaned God's name. **36:20**

They did not witness for God; they made a mockery of God.

Now after reading such a description of what Israel did, we would expect to read God will completely destroy her and give her land to another. But what we read in these next verses is pure grace.

TOPIC #4 – God will completely restore Israel because of His name. **36:21-38**

I don't know how anyone in their right mind can read this section of Scripture and believe in Lordship Salvation. Israel is not heading to a wonderful eternity because she made God the Lord of her life. She is going to a wonderful eternity because of the pure grace of God.

Prophetic Reality #1 - God had a concern for His own name. **36:21-22**

He will do good things for Israel, not because she deserves it, but because His name is on the line. What often prompts God to act is not the faithfulness of His people, but the protection of His name.

Prophetic Reality #2 - God will vindicate the holiness of His name for all the nations to see. **36:23**

Notice how many times we read the words "I will" (**vrs. 23, 24, 25, 26, 26, 27, 28, 29, 29, 29, 30, 33, 37**). The blessings that will happen to Israel and to us are all due to God's will, not our will. All the hope Israel has for the future and all the hope we have for the future is due to the will of God.

Prophetic Reality #3 - God will gather Israel from all the nations and bring her to her land. **36:24**

Prophetic Reality #4 - God will cleanse Israel from all of her filth. **36:25**

Prophetic Reality #5 - God will give Israel a new heart. **36:26**

Prophetic Reality #6 - God will give Israel His Spirit. **36:27**

This will be a new relationship that Israel has with the Spirit of God that will enable her to obey everything in God's Word. When God puts His Spirit in someone, His Spirit prompts one to obey His Word. Sometimes we don't obey God's Word.

This will be a new dimension of power of the Holy Spirit. Israel will obey God's Word. God's Spirit will cause her to obey God's Word. She will walk in His statutes and observe His ordinances.

Prophetic Reality #7- God will cause Israel to live in her land. **36:28**

Prophetic Reality #8- God will save Israel from all uncleanness. **36:29a**

When we are saved, we are not saved from some of our sins, but all of our sins.

Prophetic Reality #9 - God will multiply agricultural production. **36:29b-30**

There will never be any famine to hit this land again. Grain will grow; fruit will grow; produce in the field will grow and never again will Israel be disgraced because she lacks anything. She will not have to turn to the nations for anything.

Prophetic Reality #10 - God will cause Israel to remember her evil. **36:31**

Israel will experience wonderful blessings of God and she will remember how evil she was. She will realize, we don't deserve God's blessings. She will "loathe herself."

This is the way it is for one right with God. They don't love themselves; they loathe themselves.

Prophetic Reality #11 - God is not blessing Israel because of Israel. **36:32**

Prophetic Reality #12 - God will cleanse Israel from "all" iniquities. **36:33a**

When God cleanses it is not from some of the perversion and evil, it is from all of it.

Prophetic Reality #13 - God will cause all Israel's cities to be inhabited by Israel. **36:33b**

Prophetic Reality #14 - God will cause waste places to be rebuilt. **36:33c-34**

Even the desolate land areas of Israel will be blessed by God. Israel will own the totality of the land.

Prophetic Reality #15 - God will cause the nations to see His blessings and discuss it. **36:35**

The nations of the world will be testifying that the entirety of Israel's land is like the Garden of Eden.

Prophetic Reality #16 - God will cause the nations left to know He is God. **36:36**

There will no longer be any false religion.

Prophetic Reality #17 - God will let the house of Israel ask Him things. **36:37a**

Here is a proper way to think about God. He lets us talk to Him.

Prophetic Result #18 - God will increase Israel's numbers. **36:37b-38**

When God does this all will know that "I am the LORD."