**Ezekiel Sermon #5**

**God’s Remnant**

**Themes in Ezekiel:**

1. The sovereignty/glory of God.

2. The utter sinfulness of human beings.

3. The inescapability (and justice) of God’s judgment. This is the main theme of Ch 1-24.

4. The return of the King and the restoration of God’s remnant to glory. This is the theme of Ezek 34-48.

So far: **I Ezekiel commissioned as the Watchman of Judah.**

I We Need to See God

II We Need to Stand Up for God

III We Need to Eat the Scroll

IV We Need to Be God’s Watchman

**II The Day of the Lord: God is coming in judgment on his people because of their sin.**

Acted out the destruction in Ezek 4

Ezekiel got a haircut symbolic of what will happen to Jerusalem Ezek 5

Ezek 9 & 10 God seals his people for the Day of the Lord, They avoid judgment, but not suffering. God abandons the temple and judgment comes on Jerusalem, beginning with the sanctuary.

**III. Ezek 18 God’s Justice.**

When people sin, people suffer, but when it comes to eternal life, we are responsible only for what we have done or not done.

 The soul who sins will die. Those who repent will be saved. Read Ezek 18:31-32

Today:

**IV. Ch 19-24 The End of the Road**

21:18-24 Another visual parable. A signpost. God sends Nebuchadnezzar to Jerusalem to carry out his wrath and judgment for their sin.

Ezekiel 23 1-10 Ohola and Oholibah The utter sinfulness of Judah/Oholobah

Oholah is Samaria/Ephraim/Israel/the Northern Kingdom

Oholibah is Jerusalem/Judah/the Southern Kingdom

Their sin was to say that what God had for them was not enough.

God gave them over to the things they gave themselves to.

Ezekiel 24 God will have no pity when he carries out his judgment.

Ex: Ezekiel is told not to mourn his wife when she died. Being God’s spokesperson is a heavy burden.

Ezekiel 33 Messenger announces that Jerusalem has fallen. This is good news, because now that God’s wrath has been filled up, it is time for God to come to his people in mercy and to claim a remnant.

**V. Ch 34-48 The Messiah is coming. God Will Save a Remnant.**

Now that the working of God’s wrath is complete, the rest of the book will be a comfort. Ezekiel preaches good news. A remnant will repent, return, be restored and the City will be rebuilt!

It is about our opportunity to repent, to return, to be restored to God, and to have our relationship with him rebuilt.

This was all prophesied in Deut 30:1-6

Some of us were banished from God to the most distant land under the heavens.

There is some double (and even triple) prophecy here in that, the restoration under Cyrus and the restoration under the Messiah are both in mind.

Ezekiel 34 Shepherds, sheep and the Good Shepherd.

bad leadership is condemned,

godly leadership is described

Ezek 34:1-6

What is the job of the shepherd?

1. Ezek 34:2 To take care of the flock. NOT to take care of yourself! They had taken advantage of their position as shepherd and had used the sheep.

2. 34:4 Take care of the weak. One key measure of a Jesus church is how the shepherds care for the weak.

3. 34:4 Bring back the strays.

4. 34:4 Bring in the lost.

This has been my goal, personally, since I came here and it is my goal for 2020.

Q: Who will you take care of?

Q: What stray will you bring back this year?

Q: Will you bring in a lost sheep this year?

The worst possible charge against a shepherd: v. 4 You have treated them harshly and brutally. The result of bad shepherding: The sheep are scattered.

Sheep can be annoying. Young Christians create problems. (Dwayne yesterday)

Ezek 34:7-10 God’s response to bad shepherds.

v. 10 1. I will hold you accountable.

2. I will remove you from leading the flock. I will rescue my flock from you. May it never be that God has to rescue his flock from us.

34:11-16 God: If the shepherds will not do it, then I will shepherd my sheep, and I will create a remnant.

This is a double prophecy about Judah and about the Church.

v. 16 Hopefully you are not the “sleek and the strong.”

34:17-21 The sheep are not completely without responsibility. Do not blame it on bad leadership.

 Do not muddy the water—keeping the best for yourselves. Do not make of yourself a “fat sheep.” (v. 20)

Q: Have you muddied the waters (v. 18) for other Christians by your actions?

Q: Are you a “fat sheep.” (v. 20) Do you take care of yourself first and others come in a distant second?

34:22-31 God’s shepherd—the Messiah—is coming! (John 10:14 I AM the Good Shepherd). Jesus the branch of Jesse, David will tend them!!!

v. 26 Showers of blessing!

v. 27 Much fruit! Security. Freedom (John 8 31f)

v. 28 Living without fear (1 Jn 4:18 perfect love drives out fear)

v. 29 Spiritual food. He will give us the bread of life. No longer will we hunger. Life to the full John 10:10

**V. Ezekiel 36-39 God is calling a remnant.**

**VI. Ezekiel 40-48 God has restored his remnant.**

Ezekiel 36 The mountain of the Lord

36:22-23 It is not for your sake that I do this. It is for my holy name and for my holiness. We need to remember this. Reminds of Deut 7:7-9

At one time you were Oholah or perhaps even Oholibah.

36:24-32 You will be a remnant devoted to me. A prophecy of the New Covenant.

-from all nations 24

-cleansed with water 25

-a new heart and a new spirit (born again) 26

-receive the Holy Spirit 27

No wonder Jesus challenged Nicodemus that he should have known this was coming. (John 3:10)

-blessings (physical rather than spiritual because this is the Old Testament) 29-30

-be ashamed and repent 31

- v. 32 But remember I am not doing this because you were doing so awesome. Note: he says this twice for a reason.

-much fruit

Ezek 36:33-38 God calls a remnant.

Your ruins will be rebuilt. This is your life in Christ.

Your life was ruins before God came into it.

 …like the garden of Eden v. 35 Symbolic of being in the Kingdom of God.

Ezekiel 37 Valley of dry bones.

The promise of a resurrection, and of the calling of a remnant.

Ezek 37:2 These bones aren’t just dry, they are “very dry”. The situation is hopeless. God loves a hopeless situation. So should we.

Q: Can you relate?

God puts his spirit into the bones and they come alive.

We were dead, but God makes us alive by the Holy Spirit.

Read 37:11-14

Ezekiel 37:24-28 My dwelling place will be with them and David my servant will be their prince.

Q: Is Jesus your prince/Lord?

37:24 As clearly messianic as it could be. My servant David will be king over them. (OT parallels?)

v. 26 A new covenant under David. I will put my sanctuary among them forever. (We are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20) God will tabernacle among us. John 1:14

This is about the church, but it is also about heaven/the Kingdom of God

Ezekiel 38-39 God and Magog—the enemies of God’s people—destroyed. God’s people saved.

How God will deal with the enemies of his people at any time God’s comfort to his people that what happened before will not happen again. It may look bad, but God is in control.

Ezekiel 1:1-9

Some of us feel like we can’t make it. Can I really make it all the way to the end? Will I be overcome by sin and go back to the world?

Q: Has anyone felt this way at one time?

Jim McGuiggan: Gog is a grand illustration of any and all who oppose God’s people.

38:1-4 I am against you Gog, prince of Magog.

Meshech and Tubal are two tribes in Asia Minor. Herodotus tells us that they were involved in the slave trade. Gog and Magog have allies from Persia (east), Cush (Ethiopia, south), Put (North Africa, west) and Gomer and Togarmah (north) In other words, Israel is surrounded!

Q: Have you ever felt “surrounded” by the world/by forces of evil? What thoughts came into your mind at the time?

v. 8 You will invade the Promised Land “gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel”

Ezek 38:10-12

v. 11 unwalled cities. God’s people living in security. No problem. God will destroy them without a shot. The world will (foolishly?) think you are defenseless.

39:9-10 God will defeat our enemies and give their things to us. Do not fear.

Hebrews 13:5-6 What can man do to me?

Ezekiel 39:25-29 This is what it is about. This vision is to encourage God’s people that he will protect them.

Q: What will God do for you/us?

Ezekiel 40-48 The temple rebuilt. The remnant is reestablished.

The purpose of this section is to illustrate the Kingdom of God/God with his people. Do not get caught up in the details. It gives very precise instructions for building the restored temple.

Is it about the restoration of the kingdom and the temple in 516 BC? Yes

Is it about the church and the heavenly tabernacle? Yes

Is it about the ultimate embodiment of the tabernacle/Kingdom of God/Heaven? Yes.

This section is about God’s holiness—his perfection, and about dwelling with God. The instructions must be carried out “to the letter.”

 [Ezek 40:1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile and the 14th year after the destruction of Jerusalem (572 BC]

Ezek 43:1 The glory of the Lord returns to the temple (after leaving it Ezekiel 10:18). He enters through the East Gate (as he had exited it through the East Gate).

Application: God comes and dwells in us as a temple. This is our spiritual resurrection (Ezek 37)

a. Individually we are the temple of the Lord 1 Cor 6:19-21

Q: How does this knowledge affect how you think about yourself?

b. Collectively we are the temple of the Lord (Eph 2:19-22)

Q: How does this knowledge affect how you think about yourself?

43:10 Why is God giving us all this precise details? “that they may be ashamed of their sins.”

What a strange statement. Why does God say this to Israel? To us?

Hebrews 8:3-6 “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” (or in Ezekiel 40-48).

[44:2 The East gate is to stay shut (because only the holy can enter through the East gate.]

[46:1-3 Except on Sabbaths and New Moons.]

44:15f Only the Zadokites (also 43:19) (a particular family of Levitical priests) have been righteous (for example when they supported Solomon when others were opposing him). They can minister in the temple.

Point: We are the spiritual Zadokites.

 v. 23 teach the difference between the holy and the common.

v. 28 I am to be their only inheritance. They will have no possessions in the land.

Q: Application to us? Are you prepared to have God as your only inheritance?

Ezekiel 47 The river from the temple. Parallel Revelation 22:1-5, This is about God taking care of his people in need. It has imagery from the Garden of Eden.

v. 1-2 It comes from the temple—from God.

v. 3-5 It gets deeper and deeper.

v. 8 It is living water (Zech 14:8, John 7:37-39) How has God given you life?

Ezek 47:12 God will provide food in abundance.

Parallel:

Revelation 22:1-6 Perfect Provision.

Q: What do you feel that you need?

End Ezekiel 48:35 We are back in the garden and “The Lord is There.”