**Ezekiel Sermon #6**

**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.

4. The Messiah is coming and God’s remnant is being restored.

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

Ezek 36:24f A remnant devoted to God. A New Covenant.

v. 24 all nations

v. 25 cleansed by water

v. 26 a new heart and a new spirit

v. 27 receive the Holy Spirit

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”.

Read 37:11-14

Ezekiel 38-39 God and Magog—the enemies of God’s people—come to attack God’s people in unwalled cities. But God destroys Gog and Magog. God’s people are saved.

The message: God is in control. It may look bad. It may look like God’s enemies are winning, but God is in control and he will win.

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? It is too hard.

2 Kings 6:16 Those who are with us are greater than those who are with them.

Maybe you feel who are with them are greater than those who are with us.

It seems like our enemies are lined up against us.

Q: Has anyone felt this way at one time?

Then Ezekiel 38-39 is for you.

38:1-6 I am against you Gog, and your people Magog.

Jim McGuiggan: v. 3 Gog is a grand illustration of any and all who oppose God’s people.

Magog is the forces of evil arrayed against us

Gog is the evil person working against us.

 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?

Ezekiel 38:7-16

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

v. 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.

39:1-14a Get the picture. God will defeat our enemies and give their things to us. Do not fear.

v. 9 We will burn up their weapons for fuel. A lot of weapons!

We can live in great confidence

Romans 8:31 If God is with us, who can be against us.

2 Cor 10:3-5 We have powerful weapons. They demolish strongholds.

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

[Eph 6:10-20 Full armor. Mighty power.]

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? He will restore a remnant! (like Michael)

v. 26 We can forget our shame and our unfaithfulness. Have you felt shame?

v. 27 God will prove himself holy through us. God will be proved holy through YOU!!

v. 28 Sure, I sent them into exile, but I will restore them to their proper place with me.

v. 29 I will pour out my Holy Spirit on them.

This is the same Holy Spirit which is a deposit, guaranteeing our salvation until the appearing of Jesus.

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

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.

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.

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

Sample passage Ezek 40:20f

Ezek 43:1-7 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)

We sinned. God left us, but now, we have been restored and God is entering his temple.

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?

43:10-12 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).

Application for us: We do not need to feel ashamed, but we do need to remember that at one time we were ashamed.

43:12 All the area on top of the mountain will be most holy.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts.

[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 47:1-12 A vision of the future.

 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?

John 7:38 Whoever believes in my, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. (by this he meant the Holy Spirit)

Ezek 47:12 God will provide food in abundance.

Parallel:

Revelation 22:1-6 Perfect Provision.

Q: What do you feel that you need? What will God do in your life and in the life of the church through the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit gives life!!!!!!

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

Summary:

No matter how bad it may look, God will protect his people without firing a shot!

God will restore those who have left him to a relationship with him.

The Holy Spirit will fill our lives like streams of living water. We will have abundant life.