

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 June Ezekiel 01-07 When Your World Crumbles
- 2) 08 June Ezekiel 08-14 When Idols Tug at your Heart
- 3) 15 June Ezekiel 15-19 When You Want to Blame Others
- 4) 22 June Ezekiel 20-24 When Tragedy Hits Home
- 5) 29 June Ezekiel 25-32 When Pride Turns to Greed
- 6) 06 July Ezekiel 33-35 Hope of New Freedom
- 7) 13 July Ezekiel 36-39 Hope of New Life**
- 8) 20 July Ezekiel 40-48 Hope of New Worship
- 9) 27 July Daniel 01 Draw the Line
- 10) 03 August Daniel 02-03 Risk Everything for God
- 11) 10 August Daniel 04-05 Tell it Like it is
- 12) 17 August Daniel 06 Never Give Up on Prayer
- 13) 24 August Daniel 07-08 Live to Win in the End
- 14) 31 August Daniel 09-12 Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION

- Even when someone totally botches their life, there is still hope of recovery – if they turn to God and do things His way
- Do you know anyone that has committed adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, and even killed their kids? Is there any hope for them to be forgiven and become worthy of living in Heaven?
- Yet, even after such vile sins, God told the Jews if they would simply forsake their old ways and return to Him, he would heal them and restore them – individually and as a nation
- These next 4 chapters deal with messages of hope and restoration

| Passage | Comments |
|---------------------|--|
| Ezekiel 36:1-38 | <p>Renewal of God's Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God provides some startling insight about His ways • v3. "For good reason you, Israel, have been made desolate" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God had a purpose for severely disciplining His people • v8. Your fruit will soon come • v10. Everything will be rebuilt • v11. God will treat you better than at the first • v23 God will vindicate the holiness of His name • vv26-27 God will give His people a new heart so they will walk perfectly in His ways • v32. BUT God is not doing this for Israel's benefit, but for His name's sake (v22) |
| 37:1-28 | <p>Renewal of God's People – Vision of Dry Bones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel and even we realize God can do ANYTHING. The real questions are WILL GOD DO IT? ...and "WHEN WILL HE DO IT?" • v12. "I will open your graves" – What might seem hopeless to us, is a non-problem to God |
| Is God Predictable? | <p>His ways may not be our ways, and He does hide Himself from those who do not want to find Him, BUT God will ALWAYS be true to His word and His prophecies</p> |
| Resurrections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jewish belief in a bodily resurrection of the dead was not yet fully developed at this time in history • Jews were aware of 3 resurrections of recently dead individuals (there are a total of 10 resurrection stories in the Bible): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1Kings 17:17-24. Elijah raised a widow's son 2. 2Kings 4:17-37. Elisha raised the Shunammite's son 3. 2Kings 13:21. Touching Elisha's bones raised a dead man • By the time of Jesus, Jewish Rabbis taught that a dead person's spirit hovered near the body for 3 days, so restoration of life was possible during that period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hence the significance of Lazarus's resurrection after 4 days being in the tomb |
| Visions | <p>Can people receive visions and dreams today as Ezekiel and Daniel did?Simple answer, is NO</p> <p>God reveals what we need to know today through His Son, Jesus Christ, His Incarnate word (Hebrews 1:1-2), and no longer through Prophets and Apostles</p> <p>We won't see such miraculous wonders again at least till the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11 show up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophetic visions were designed for grasping a single concept of the message. They were never meant to have every revealed detail interpreted • The concept of the Dry Bones was to convey the restoration of |

| Passage | Comments |
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| | <p>Israel – both the Northern kingdom of 10 tribes and the Southern kingdom of Judah & Benjamin</p> |
| 38:1-23 | <p>Defeat of God's Enemies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage seems to be at the end of the 3.5 years of peace in the Middle East (1st half of the 7-year Tribulation period) • Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Put, Gomer, and other nations of the "remote parts of the North. The identification of these nations is still speculative. What we can say is the leader and these entities represent global opposition to God's people • v8. In the latter years these nations will be summoned to be destroyed • vv19-22. A great earthquake will occur in Israel, possibly the one recorded in Rev 16:18-20 where Jerusalem is divided into 3 parts, and every island fled away, and mountains were flattened • v23. Only then after much destruction will people recognize and acknowledge God |
| 39:1-29 | <p>Demonstration of God's Holiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This chapter alludes to the Battle of Armageddon as portrayed in Revelation 16-19 • vv1-6. Who is Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal? Are these representatives of the Anti-Christ, and of Russia, Moscow, and other modern day countries of the north? Possibly, but we cannot be dogmatic about it since the Bible does not clearly specify who they are other than tribal names <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What we can dogmatically say is this future alliance of cities and nations will be destroyed on the mountains of Israel as they seek her demise • v7. God draws another line in the sand – "I will not let My Name to be profaned anymore" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How do people profane God's name? Is it through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cussing? <input type="checkbox"/> Disobedience? <input type="checkbox"/> Other forms? ♦ In this future day of destruction, the world of nations will know God is the Holy One of Israel • vv9-16. It will take 7 years to burn all the weapons of war; and 7 months to bury the dead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Note: Defense contractor, EBV of Joplin, MO says it would take them 20 years just to demolish all the left over ordinance (hand grenades, land mines, cluster bombs, and other munitions) from the Vietnam war • vv17-22. God will make a sacrifice – a sacrifice of soldiers on the battlefieldsee Rev 19:17-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v18. "You will eat the flesh and drink the blood of mighty men" – Remember, this is a vision, so this phrase is a euphemism that much death will occur ♦ vv22-23. And the real intent for all this bloodshed is first for Israel to acknowledge God as their God from this day forward, then for all nations to recognize the factual history of Israel's rise and fall • vv25. God intends to fully restore the fortunes of Jacob (all Israel) |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- All we can do at times is hang on for this train ride that God has got us on
- BUT, while it is still day, we do have a job to do – we must be about doing His will, proclaiming His Gospel
- Let us be found working at His coming

NEXT WEEK: Ezekiel 40-48. The 4th temple complex is revealed, but it only appears in a vision, so there is speculation if there really will be animal sacrifices by the Zadok priesthood in the future kingdom

