

Understanding the Message of Ezekiel
Ezekiel 36:22-28 (p.918)

Intro

I. The Lord has promised to _____ His holiness to the world _____ His people...

Apocalyptic literature uses heightened _____ imagery to describe almost unimaginable spiritual realities; the glory and splendor of God far _____ anything that we can describe or imagine.

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God....As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.... their wings touched one another.... As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.... And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning....Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads....And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads.... And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking. (1:1,4-6,9,10,12-14,22,26-28)

And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me.... And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them. (2:3,5)

Ezekiel is a prophet and a priest who is called to witness to the _____ nation of Judah; he foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and the glory of the Lord _____ the temple.

Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house.... (10:18)

Ezekiel is a prophet of judgment but also a prophet of _____ and redemption, serving as a _____ to warn the people of Israel and to encourage them to repent.

I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered.... And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (11:17,19,20)

I will remember my covenant with you... and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant. (16:60)

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.... Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? (33:7,11)

God is motivated by His love for us and for the _____ of His own holiness; He will use His _____ to display His holiness to the world so that others can know the Lord.

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. v.22,23

II. By _____ us and _____ us.

God promises to _____ us out of the world and bring us to Himself, and He promises to _____ us from sin and idolatry.

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. v.24,25

He promises to _____ us and to change us; this is sometimes called _____ or the new birth.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. v.26

Q.40 Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature? No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

Q.41 What is this change of heart called? The new birth, or regeneration. (First Catechism)

he saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit... (Titus 3:5)

...he has caused us to be born again to a living hope... (1 Peter 1:3)

God promises to sanctify us by His _____ and make us willing and able to obey; this is a _____ of the true people of God.

And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. v.27,28

...it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13)

*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...
(Gal. 5:22,23)*

Are you born again? Regeneration is _____ to becoming a Christian; God _____ can give spiritual life to the spiritually dead.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.... So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:3,8)

Q.42 Who can change a sinner's heart? The Holy Spirit alone. (First Catechism)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.... So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people.... And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live.... (37:1-14)

The Lord uses His Word and His _____ to breathe life into those who are spiritually dead; listen to His Word and _____ the Lord to give you His Spirit.

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
(Rom. 10:14,17)*

Then Jesus...came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ...he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out... (John 11:38, 39, 43)

...you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.... But God, being rich in mercy... even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.... you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.... (Eph. 2:1,2,4,8)

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you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Acts 1:8)

be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

We are the new _____ and dwelling place of the Lord, and He will display His glory in our _____ by pouring out His Spirit upon us.

you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house... (1 Peter 2:5)

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ...For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Cor. 3:16,17)

... the hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me to the city. In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south. When he brought me there, behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand. (40:1-3)

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming.... And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen... by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. (43:1-5)

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...you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.... whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:10,14)

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