

Last Days & 2nd Coming: #4 - Ezekiel

Ezekiel was exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon in 597BC. He prophesied between 593BC and 573BC .

Things to consider:

- 1) Understanding the physical (e.g. “mountains of Israel”) in the light of Jesus’ “My kingdom is not of this world.”
- 2) The purpose of God’s plan being: “Then you/they will know that I am the LORD”
- 3) What is meant by “Israel”?

Ezekiel	Notes & NT Reference										
Ezekiel 1-32 – judgment on Israel & nations											
Ezekiel 33 – fall of Jerusalem (586BC)											
<p>Ezekiel 34 – I will be their Shepherd</p> <p>¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and make them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.</p> <p>²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.</p> <p>²⁵ “I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety. ²⁶ I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. ²⁷ I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. ²⁸ The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them.</p>	<p>The Lord will send a good shepherd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He will truly care for his sheep (Jesus!) - See Luke 4v18-21 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me ...” - See John 10v1-30 “I am the good shepherd” - Jesus says to unbelieving Jews, “you are not my sheep” John 10v26 <p>➤ Submit to Him & Trust Him</p>										
<p>Ezekiel 35 – I will oppose those who oppose you</p> <p>¹³ You boasted against me and spoke against me without restraint, and I heard it. ¹⁴ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: while the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate. ¹⁵ Because you rejoiced when the inheritance of Israel became desolate, that is how I will treat you. You will be desolate, Mount Seir, you and all of Edom. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”</p>	<p>God will deal with opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt 23v1-39 – Woe to Pharisees who opposed Jesus and his ways. - Matt 25v31-40 – Sheep & Goats judged based on how treated Jesus’ people. <p>➤ Trust God to deal with them</p>										
<p>Ezekiel 36 – You will be fruitful & renewed within</p> <p>⁸ “But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. ⁹ I am concerned for you and will look on you with favour; you will be ploughed and sown, ¹⁰ and I will cause many people to live on you – yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹ I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous.</p> <p>²² ‘Therefore say to the Israelites, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: it is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.</p> <p>²⁴ “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleanness.</p> <p>³³ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: on the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. ³⁴ The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. ³⁵ They will say, ‘This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden;</p>	<p>God’s work of Fruitfulness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John 15v1-17 “I am the Vine” – Jesus - “All of Israel” – but lost trace of all but Judah. See later, but also Romans 11v26 <p>➤ Remain in the mountains of Israel</p> <p>It’s all for God’s glory</p> <p>God’s work of Inner re-birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John 3v1-16 “must be born again to enter the kingdom of God ... born of water and of spirit” - Jeremiah 31v33-34 written 2 years before in Egypt & quoted in Hebrews 8v8-12 <p>➤ Are you saved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - And yet still the imagery of physical blessing. 										
<p>Ezekiel 37 – Dry bones brought to life & Spirit-filled</p> <p>¹¹ Then he said to me: ‘Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”</p>	<p>God to bring life & spiritual power</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Image</th><th>Application</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bones</td><td>People of Israel</td></tr> <tr> <td>Body</td><td>Raised from grave</td></tr> <tr> <td>Breath</td><td>Spirit in</td></tr> <tr> <td>Army</td><td>Settled in own land</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>➤ Are you in God’s “army”?</p>	Image	Application	Bones	People of Israel	Body	Raised from grave	Breath	Spirit in	Army	Settled in own land
Image	Application										
Bones	People of Israel										
Body	Raised from grave										
Breath	Spirit in										
Army	Settled in own land										

<p>Ezekiel 37 – United as One Nation under One King</p> <p>¹⁸ ‘When your people ask you, “Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?” ¹⁹ say to them, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph – which is in Ephraim’s hand – and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.” ²⁰ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on ²¹ and say to them, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offences, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, ^[b] and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.</p> <p>²⁴ “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. ²⁵ They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there for ever, and David my servant will be their prince for ever. ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them for ever. ²⁷ My dwelling-place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them for ever.”</p>	<p>All Israel united under one Shepherd-King “Judah” and “Ephraim” reunited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - But cannot be literal as non-Judah lost. - Must be understood in light of Ephesians 2 & Romans 2v28, 9v8, 10v12, Galatians 3v28, 6v10, Colossians 3v11, Phil 3v3 - This is Jew and Gentile combined in Christ to be the true Israel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are we united regardless of history? <p>The Lord will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unite them from the nations - Save them from sin - Cleanse them - Be their God - Place “David” as king, shepherd and prince over them. - Dwell with them in the land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are you living in God’s presence?
<p>Ezekiel 38 & 39 – Lord’s victory over evil</p> <p>38 The word of the LORD came to me: ² ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of ^[a] Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him ³ and say: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of ^[b] Meshek and Tubal. ⁴ I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army – your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. ⁵ Persia, Cush ^[c] and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, ⁶ also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops – the many nations with you.</p> <p>⁷ “Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. ⁸ After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. ⁹ You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.</p> <p>¹⁰ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: on that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. ¹¹ You will say, ‘I will invade a land of unwallled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people – all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.</p> <p>¹⁸ This is what will happen in that day: when Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁹ In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. ²⁰ The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. ²¹ I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man’s sword will be against his brother. ²² I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulphur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. ²³ And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”</p> <p>39 – All his weapons neutralized, mass burial to cleanse the land.</p>	<p>The Lord destroys the Devil and his army when they attack God’s people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Magog, Meshek & Tubal – sons of Japheth (Gen 10) - “Prince” – Daniel 10v13 “But the prince of Persia resisted me” – Satan’s forces / demons. - See also 34v24, 37v25 where Jesus is described a “prince” over his people. - God is provoking the nations to come out to fight. - John picks up on this in Revelation 20v7-10 <p>⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “unwallled ... unsuspecting” – not the Israel of today, but the people of God. - “evil scheme” – Ephesians 6v11 - 1 Peter 5v8 “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring line, looking for someone to devour.” - Whole of creation trembling at God’s presence - God will destroy them and they will destroy themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Am I seeking God for victory in the battle of temptation, doubt, compromise, half-heartedness - God will neutralize all weapons for the good of his people, and the land will be cleared of all residue of evil by God’s people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Am I clearing out the evil?
<p>Ezekiel 40-46 – The New Temple & City (symmetry)</p> <p>47 – Life-giving River flows from the temple</p> <p>48 – Equal Division of the Land</p> <p>48v35 “And the name of the city from that time on will be ‘The LORD is there’.”</p>	<p>This is not literal, but idealized (though it would seem Ezekiel expected the temple to be built).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The restored people would not need the daily sacrifices. 2) It is not physically possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How deep am I prepared to go in God’s river of life?