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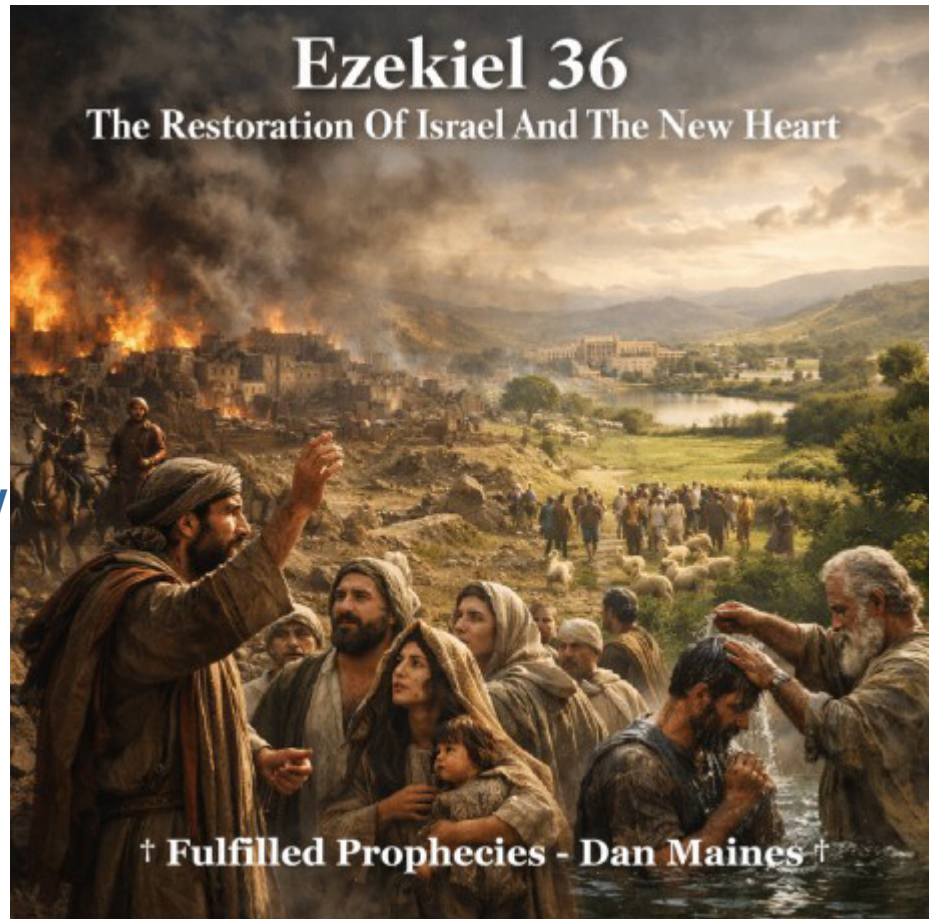
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## Ezekiel 36 The Restoration Of Israel And The New Heart



By Dan Maines

## Ezekiel 36 The Restoration Of Israel And The New Heart

### Introduction

† Ezekiel 36 speaks directly to the restoration of Israel after judgment, but it goes far beyond physical land and points to a deeper covenant transformation (Ezekiel 36:24-27)

† This chapter is not about a future modern nation, it is about God's covenant people being cleansed, renewed, and restored through Christ and fulfilled in the first century (John 17:6,

Hebrews 8:6-13)

† The promises here reach their completion when the Old Covenant system is removed and the New Covenant is fully established, culminating in AD 70 (Hebrews 9:8-10)

### **Ezekiel 36:1-7**

Now as for you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the LORD. This is what the Lord GOD says: Because the enemy has spoken against you, Aha! and, The everlasting heights have become our possession, therefore prophesy and say, This is what the Lord GOD says: Because, indeed, because they have made you desolate and crushed you from every side, so that you would become a possession for the rest of the nations, and you have been taken up in the talk of tongues and the whispering of the people, therefore, mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord GOD. This is what the Lord GOD says to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the abandoned cities which have become plunder and an object of ridicule to the rest of the nations which are all around, therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and with contempt of soul, to drive it out for plunder. Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, This is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations. Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: I have sworn that the nations which are all around you will certainly endure their insults.

† God is addressing the land because it represents His covenant people, the shame placed on Israel reflects their

covenant unfaithfulness (Ezekiel 36:17)

† The nations mocked Israel because of their fall, but God promises reversal, this sets the stage for restoration under a new covenant reality (Romans 11:12)

† This isn't about geography alone, it's about covenant identity being restored through Christ (Galatians 3:29)

### **Ezekiel 36:8-15**

But as for you, mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel, for they will soon come. For behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. I will multiply people on you, all the house of Israel, all of it, and the cities will be inhabited and the ruins will be rebuilt. I will multiply on you people and animals, and they will increase and be fruitful, and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were previously and treat you better than at the first. Then you will know that I am the LORD. Yes, I will have people, My people Israel, walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again deprive them of children. This is what the Lord GOD says: Because people say to you, You are a devourer of people and have deprived your nation of children, therefore you will no longer devour people and no longer deprive your nation of children, declares the Lord GOD. I will not let you hear insults from the nations anymore, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will you cause your nation to stumble any longer, declares the Lord GOD.

† The fruitfulness here points to covenant blessing, fulfilled in the growth of the church, not a return to physical land ownership (Acts 2:41)

† God says they will know Him, that knowledge comes through Christ, not through land possession (John 14:7)

† The increase of people is fulfilled in the expansion of the gospel to all nations (Colossians 1:6)

### **Ezekiel 36:16-21**

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds, their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. I also scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them. When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, These are the people of the LORD, yet they have come out of His land. But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

† Israel's problem was never location, it was sin, this is why restoration must be spiritual, not geographical (Isaiah 1:4)

† God's concern is His name, not national pride, He restores for His glory (Romans 9:17)

† This sets up the need for a new heart, not just a return to land (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

### **Ezekiel 36:22-27**

Therefore say to the house of Israel, This is what the Lord GOD says: It is not for your sake, house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when I show Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the

nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean, I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances.

† This is the New Covenant promise fulfilled in Christ, not a future event (Hebrews 8:10)

† The cleansing water points directly to spiritual cleansing through the gospel (Titus 3:5)

† The new heart is regeneration, fulfilled in the first century church (2 Corinthians 5:17)

### **Ezekiel 36:28-38**

And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers, so you will be My people, and I will be your God. Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness, and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your wrongdoings and your abominations. I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Lord GOD, let it be known to you. Be ashamed and humiliated for your ways, house of Israel! This is what the Lord GOD says: On the day that I cleanse you from all your wrongdoing, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. And they will say, This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited. Then the nations that are left

around you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate, I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it. This is what the Lord GOD says: This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them, I will increase their people like a flock. Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

† The land becoming like Eden is symbolic of restored covenant life, fulfilled in the New Covenant kingdom (Revelation 2:7)

† Being God's people is fulfilled in the church, not a physical nation (1 Peter 2:9)

† The multiplication of people is fulfilled through the gospel spreading rapidly before AD 70 (Acts 6:7)

## **Historical References**

† Flavius Josephus records the devastation and restoration cycles of Israel, confirming the pattern of judgment and renewal in the first century

† Eusebius of Caesarea writes that the church replaced the old covenant system after the destruction of Jerusalem

† Irenaeus affirms the new covenant transformation as spiritual, not tied to earthly territory

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We're living in the fulfillment of this promise, we have the new heart and the Spirit now (Romans 8:9)

† Our identity isn't tied to land, it's tied to Christ and His completed work (Philippians 3:20)

† God has already cleansed His people, we walk in that reality, not waiting for it (Hebrews 10:14)

† The kingdom is established, and we're part of it now (Colossians 1:13)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** When was Ezekiel 36 fulfilled

**A** It was fulfilled in the first century through Christ's work and completed with the full establishment of the New Covenant at the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Hebrews 8:13)

**Q** Is this about a future nation of Israel

**A** No, it is about the covenant people of God being restored through Christ (Galatians 3:28-29)

**Q** What is the new heart

**A** It is spiritual regeneration given through the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**Q** What does the land represent

**A** It represents covenant blessing and relationship with God, not physical territory (Hebrews 11:16)

**Q** Who are God's people now

**A** Those in Christ, both Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14-16)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Ezekiel 36

† Josephus Antiquities of the Jews; Eusebius Ecclesiastical History; Irenaeus Against Heresies

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