

## SHOWNOTES

### Podcast Episode: 3rd of 8 in Mini-Series 8

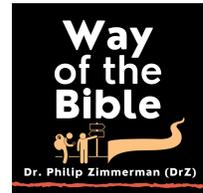
Episode #059

The LORD's New Temple | Ezekiel

### Mini-Series 8

Major and Minor Prophets

Isaiah to Malachi



Welcome to Episode #059 of Way of the Bible podcast. This is our third of eight episodes in our mini-series entitled, Major and Minor Prophets | Isaiah to Malachi. On this episode we're going to jump into the book of Ezekiel that is filled with visions beyond the veil and revelations of a coming global kingdom for the nation of Israel and a new Temple for the LORD in Israel.

On our last two episodes we've looked at the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations. A common theme of these books is judgment. But fortunately, the LORD lets the people know judgment is not God's final word.

Prophecies yet to be fulfilled in 2022 in Ezekiel deal with events of the second coming of Jesus Christ to judge the world in righteousness. These were initially introduced in Isaiah and expanded upon slightly in Jeremiah. We'll hear on this episode how the book of Ezekiel brings these prophetic events into clearer vision. Some of the passages I'm going to read today are extensive and I'll only comment on them slightly. My hope is for you to hear from the LORD himself and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to read the full text itself and discover the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ just for you.

The book of Ezekiel is 48 chapters and filled with righteous indignation, condemnation, and coming judgment of the LORD against outright flagrant wickedness within Judea and Jerusalem and the surrounding nations. While we'll examine a couple of these passages, we'll focus on expanding the prophecies given in Isaiah and Jeremiah yet to be fulfilled.

Ezekiel was a priest among the captives in Babylon. He was taken captive during the reign of Judah's king Jehoiachin. The prophet Daniel, who we'll look at next episode, was taken captive into Babylon about eight years earlier than Ezekiel during the reign of Judah's king Jehoiakim.

Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Daniel were contemporaries with Jeremiah being much older than the other two. As we've seen Jeremiah spoke to the remnant of Israel still in the land. He remained in Jerusalem through Babylon's final invasion and continued to prophesy to the doomed remnant that fled to Egypt. Jeremiah also wrote encouraging prophetic letters from Jerusalem to the captives in Babylon.

Ezekiel spoke to the captive Israelites along the rivers of Babylon. While he had harsh words from the LORD to the devastated and captive Israelites, he was also given the most vivid and illuminating visions of all the prophets. Ezekiel alone was given a vision of

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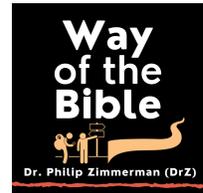
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the presence of the LORD departing the temple in Jerusalem and the return of the presence of the LORD to a new temple to yet to be built in Israel. The presence of God currently dwells in a temple in all believers (**1 Cor. 6:19** – *do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?*).

Alongside Ezekiel among the captives were false prophets who kept telling the people that Jerusalem would not be destroyed and that the people would soon return to the land. Ezekiel in both word and by his actions directed by the LORD told the people that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed because of wickedness, idolatry, and apostasy – all of which the people in captivity still possessed. And that they would not return to Jerusalem until they returned to God in obedience to the covenant and worship of the only the one true God.

Only three prophets spoke outside of the land of Israel, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Apostle John. All three of these prophets wrote of the coming complete destruction of the world; the apocalypse. They were given the brightest light regarding God's judgment of the world in righteousness, some of which is very symbolically communicated.

Ezekiel opens his book letting us know he was a priest and among the exiles by the Chebar canal in Babylon. I'll read the rest of Chapter 1 as it is worth hearing.

*Ezekiel 1:4-28 – 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. 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, 6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. 10 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. 11 Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. 12 And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living*

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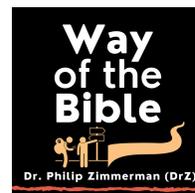
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creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. 16 As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. 17 When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went. 18 And their rims were tall and awesome, and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. 20 Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

22 Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. 23 And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. 24 And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. 25 And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings.

26 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. 27 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. 28 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.

Wow, did you get all of what Ezekiel saw? He saw a similar vision of the LORD later in the text at the temple. Ezekiel he saw the likeness of the glory of the LORD. Human in appearance, sitting on a throne in an expanse like awe inspiring crystal. The expanse was

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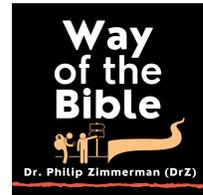
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above four living creatures; each of which had the body of a human, four wings, two arms, and four faces on their heads. Each of the creatures had a wheel within a wheel which contained the spirit of each creature and moved the creatures and the expanse. Many scholars believe the one on the throne was second person of the triune God, Jesus.

The voice spoke and called Ezekiel "son of man" and said he wanted to speak to him. The Spirit entered Ezekiel and stood him up so he could listen. The LORD told Ezekiel he was sending him to speak his words to a very rebellious people irrespective of if they listen or not. He told Ezekiel not to be rebellious but to eat a scroll of a book given to him. Ezekiel ate the book, it was as sweet as honey.

The LORD charged Ezekiel to speak his words to the house of Israel that will not be willing to listen to Ezekiel just as much as they are not willing to hear from God. God was going to let the captives know that he sees them as just as wicked as the people still resident in the land and in the city of Jerusalem. And there are multiple chapters of Ezekiel delivering this message. In preparation, God let's Ezekiel know he's up for the task. **Ezekiel 3:8-11** – *Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. 9 Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." 10 Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. 11 And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."*

The Spirit lifted Ezekiel up and transported him to the exiles at Tel-abib who were dwelling by the Chebar canal. You'll see this type of "by the Spirit" transportation in the book of Acts as well. Once there God told Ezekiel he was being made a watchman for the house of Israel. If God warns through Ezekiel a wicked man that he's going to die, and the wicked man doesn't repent to save his own life, the wicked man will die for his own sins. If the wicked man repents, Ezekiel will have delivered his own soul. But if God tells Ezekiel to warn someone and he doesn't and that someone dies, God will put the dead man's blood on Ezekiel's account. And if a righteous person turns to a stumbling block of wickedness and dies, and Ezekiel hasn't warned him, God will require his blood at Ezekiel's hand. But, if Ezekiel warns the righteous man, and he doesn't sin, the righteous man will live and Ezekiel has delivered his own soul.

God then has Ezekiel put on several visual displays for the people of a reenactment of the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. He clearly communicates with the people that God is going to deliver Jerusalem over to Babylon for a great slaughter.

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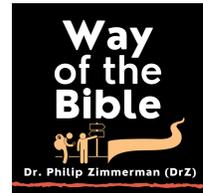
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So how bad was the wickedness? The LORD took Ezekiel on some visionary tours of the temple so he could see for himself. **Ezekiel 8:1-18** – *In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there. 2 Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man. Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal. 3 He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.*

*5 Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. 6 And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations."*

*7 And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall. 8 Then he said to me, "Son of man, dig in the wall." So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance. 9 And he said to me, "Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here." 10 So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel. 11 And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up. 12 Then he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'" 13 He said also to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they commit."*

*14 Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the LORD, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. 15 Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these."*

*16 And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the*

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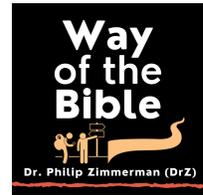
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*east, worshiping the sun toward the east. 17 Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore I will act in wrath. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."*

The glory of the LORD called six executioners and a man clothed in linen with a writing tablet. Then the glory of the LORD went up from his cherub resting place and called out to the man wearing linen with the pad to mark all the people in the city who were grieved at the wickedness going on in the city. And to the executioners, he told them to begin at the sanctuary and kill everyone in the city, old, young, male, female who did not have a mark. The man clothed in linen with the pad reported back he had completed his task.

Ezekiel sees something like a sapphire throne above the cherubim. And the glory of God told the man in linen with the pad to gather burning coals from between the cherubim and scatter them over the city. The man went into the inner court it filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD. A cherub went between the cherubim got some coals and handed them to the man in linen. Ezekiel describes the scene almost identically as his first encounter with the glory of the LORD by the Chebar canal. It is here that Ezekiel describes the four living creatures with four wings, two hands, four faces, with their spirits in wheels as cherubim. The glory of the LORD went out of the threshold of the house of the LORD and stood above the cherubim which went to the east gate of the temple.

But this judgment is not God's last word. **Ezekiel 11:14-21** – *And the word of the LORD came to me: 15 "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.' 16 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' 17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' 18 And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. 19 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, 20 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*

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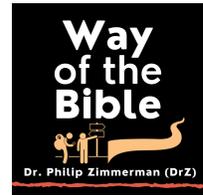
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*God. 21 But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD."*

Immediately following this the cherubim carrying the glory of the LORD departed Jerusalem to the mountain east of the city. The glory of the LORD had left his temple. Ezekiel was returned to the exiles and he told them all the LORD had shown him.

The exiles continue to believe Jerusalem is going to be spared, so the LORD has Ezekiel demonstrate some more examples of what will be happening in Jerusalem as the end nears. He then condemns the false prophets, the idolatrous elders, and emphatically states Jerusalem is going to be burned up like a useless vine. The LORD tells the house of Israel how they have been a faithless bride whoreing after the noblemen and gods of the nations surrounding them who will in turn destroy them completely. But judgment is not God's last word to the house of Israel.

**Ezekiel 16:59-63** – *"For thus says the Lord GOD: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, 60 yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant. 61 Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of[fn] the covenant with you. 62 I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD, 63 that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord GOD."*

Ezekiel continues to prophesy to the people of the house of Israel in exile of their heritage of rebellion and wickedness and the coming severity of God's judgment of Jerusalem. Finally, the LORD tells Ezekiel the exact day the siege of Jerusalem had begun. He let's Ezekiel know that the delight of Ezekiel's eyes is about to be taken away and he is not to mourn or show any traditional type of grief – it will be like any other day. Ezekiel speaks to the people in the morning, and in the evening his wife dies. When the people ask Ezekiel why he's not grieving he tells them they will be exactly the same when they hear the news of Jerusalem's fall.

The LORD then has Ezekiel prophecy about the destruction of the surrounding nations and has a special word for the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:12-19. This passage ties in with a passage in Isaiah concerning the king of Babylon in Isaiah 14:12-20. Both passages are believed by scholars to be against Lucifer, the guardian cherub, the devil himself. Listen

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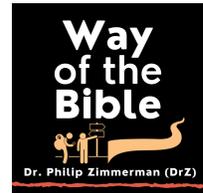
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to episode #010 on Lucifer where I explore both passages in detail. We'll see in Daniel he plays a key role in the great tribulation.

God reminds Ezekiel he has made him a watchman of Israel. And that God will deal individually with people and their sin. If the righteous become wicked, none of their righteous deeds will be remembered and they will die for their sins. If a wicked man becomes righteous, none of his wickedness will be remembered and he will live.

Ezekiel gets word from a fugitive in the twelfth year of their exile that Jerusalem had been sacked. The night before the fugitive arrived in the morning, the LORD opened Ezekiel's mouth and he could again talk. The LORD then has Ezekiel prophecy against the shepherds of Israel that scattered the sheep feeding only themselves. God promises a different shepherd in the future and a new covenant of peace.

**Ezekiel 34:11-31** – *For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.*

*17 "As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. 18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? 19 And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?*

*20 "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I will rescue my flock;*

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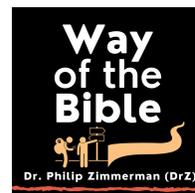
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*they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.*

*25 "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. 26 And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. 27 And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land. And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 They shall no more be a prey to the nations, nor shall the beasts of the land devour them. They shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid. 29 And I will provide for them renowned plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. 30 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Lord GOD. 31 And you are my sheep, human sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Lord GOD."*

This passage foreshadows the first coming of Jesus Christ (I am the Good Shepherd) as well as his second coming with David as the prince over Israel during the millennial kingdom.

The LORD reveals a plan for the nations inhabiting the mountains around Israel. **Ezekiel 36:8-15** – *But you, O mountains of Israel, shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to my people Israel, for they will soon come home. 9 For behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. 10 And I will multiply people on you, the whole house of Israel, all of it. The cities shall be inhabited and the waste places rebuilt. 11 And I will multiply on you man and beast, and they shall multiply and be fruitful. And I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, and will do more good to you than ever before. Then you will know that I am the LORD. 12 I will let people walk on you, even my people Israel. And they shall possess you, and you shall be their inheritance, and you shall no longer bereave them of children. 13 Thus says the Lord GOD: Because they say to you, 'You devour people, and you bereave your nation of children,' 14 therefore you shall no longer devour people and no longer bereave your nation of children, declares the Lord GOD. 15 And I will not let you hear anymore the reproach of the nations, and you shall no longer bear the disgrace of the peoples and no longer cause your nation to stumble, declares the Lord GOD."*

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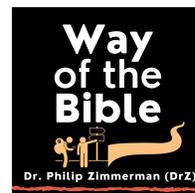
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God has Ezekiel continue to tell Israel that judgment is not his last word. **Ezekiel 36:22-38** – 22 *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23 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. 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 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. 26 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. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. 29 And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. 30 I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. 32 It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel. 33 "Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. 34 And the land that was desolate shall be filled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. 35 And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it. 37 "Thus says the Lord GOD: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock. 38 Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD."*

This promised new heart and spirit was first made available to the people of Israel through faith in Jesus Christ. The gospel of God regarding his son Jesus Christ is for the Jew first and also for people of the nations. However, when the Jews rejected continued to reject Jesus, the one they crucified, as the messiah there were lots of questions of what that

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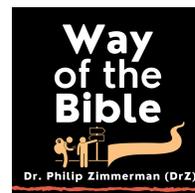
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meant. Paul addresses this in three chapters of Romans (9-11). *His summary statement is found in Romans 11:25-32 - Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers:[fn] a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; 27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." 28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.*

Paul knew from the scriptures, the rejection of Jesus by the Jews was not their end as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and now Ezekiel have all affirmed there is coming a day when God will reveal himself once again to the nation of Israel, and all who believe in his name at that time will be saved. What's happening now is people of all nations are getting adopted into God's eternal family until... the full number of the gentiles gets in and then the end will come.

The LORD then brought Ezekiel in a vision to a valley of dry bones and asked Ezekiel if these dry bones can live? Ezekiel answers by saying "O LORD God, you know" (Ez. 37:3). The LORD had Ezekiel prophesy over the bones such that bones, sinew, and flesh began to assemble into bodies lying on the ground, yet without breath. The LORD then had Ezekiel prophesy to the "breath." **Ezekiel 37:9-10** – *Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." 10 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.*

You can't miss what the LORD says next. **Ezekiel 37:11-14** – *Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' 12 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 bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."*

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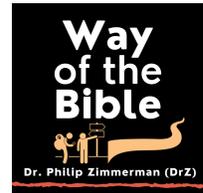
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After Jesus cried out on the cross one last time, yielding up his spirit, three things happened. The first was the curtain in the temple split from top to bottom. The third was an earthquake which had the centurion and others watching at the cross proclaim that Jesus was truly the son of God. In between these two things is recorded a very cool thing that points back to this Ezekiel passage that no one speaks about. Matthew 27:52-52 – *The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.* I'll leave this one for you to ponder. It is worth the time...

The word of the LORD then tells Ezekiel to join two sticks together signifying the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. Once together Ezekiel was to say to the joined sticks something the LORD is making very clear. **Ezekiel 37:20-28** – *Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. 24 "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. 25 They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."*

In 1948 the regathering of Israel into the land began and continues to this day. But before this prophecy is fulfilled including the setting of a new permanent sanctuary in their midst a few more things are prophesied to happen. The first of these things is contained in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, and the second is in the book of Daniel we'll look at next episode.

In Ezekiel 37 and 38 the LORD tells Ezekiel to prophesy against Meshech and Tubal the chief prince of Gog, of the land of Magog that the LORD was going to drag all of their

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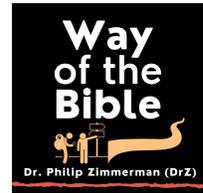
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military forces, along with those of Persia and many other peoples of the north to attempt an invasion of unwallled Israel from the north. Scholars have identified the lands of Magog and Persia referenced in this prophecy as current day Russia and Iran. The prophecy indicates as these forces are gathered in the mountains of Israel reading for invasion there will be a great earthquake of biblical proportion. The invading armies will turn on each other and begin fighting amongst themselves. Then a rain, hail, fire and sulphur from the heavens will completely obliterate the invading forces on the mountains of Israel.

The Israelites will then gather the weapons of war still on the mountains and burn them as fuel for seven years. Israel will bury the bodies of the slain for seven months in the Valley of Hamon-gog. After seven months they carefully mark the location of any remaining bones for collection and burial with the rest of the dead to cleanse the land. **Ezekiel 39:21-29** – *“And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. 22 The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward. 23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword. 24 I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them. 25 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. 26 They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, 27 when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies’ lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. 28 Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. 29 And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”*

These words have not yet been fulfilled, but they will to the uttermost. We'll have more on this in our look at the book of Daniel.

The last nine chapters of Ezekiel, 40 to 48, involve Ezekiel being taken in visions to see the new mountain top temple and to intricately record its construction. This will be a massive structure well beyond the scale of Solomon's temple and Herod's temple that the LORD will inhabit. **Ezekiel 43:1-9** – *Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. 2 And*

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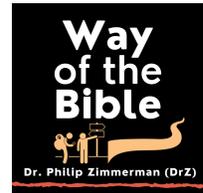
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*behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. 3 And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. 4 As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, 5 the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 6 While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, 7 and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, 8 by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger. 9 Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.*

This is the temple where Jesus Christ will reign the whole earth during the millennial kingdom. David his prince will rule over Israel. Ezekiel then describes the reinstatement of sacrificial offerings slightly different than the original and exclude the use of a sheep or lamb for a sin offering; that offering was made once for all on a cross at Calvary. He goes on to describe the layout of the land around the temple which includes holy districts, a district for the prince, and divisions of land where the tribes of Israel will dwell.

Ezekiel describes a stream of water coming from below the threshold of the temple flowing east that becomes an uncrossable river. The river will flow into the dead sea making it fresh and alive with fish of all kinds that are caught by fisherman lining its banks. On both sides of the river will grow trees of all kinds for food, and their leaves for healing.

On the east, west, north, and south sides of the city will be three gates on each side representing the tribes of Israel. **Ezekiel 48:35** – *And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There."*

And that ends the book of Ezekiel. This book gives us fantastic behind the curtain visions of the spiritual realm and the glory of the LORD. At the direction of the LORD, Ezekiel clearly articulated in reenactments, appearance, and speech the LORD's displeasure with Israel and his just and righteous judgment of the people in the land. In addition, through Ezekiel, the LORD clearly tells the people that judgment is not his last word to

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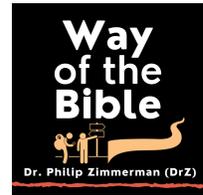
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Israel. The LORD will fulfill his covenantal promises. I hope by now you can envision even more clearly what the LORD spoke more than a century earlier thru the prophet Isaiah.

**Isaiah 2:1-5** – *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

On our next episode we'll look at the book of Daniel and get a picture of the coming global leader who will bring the world to its knees and ushers in the great tribulation. We'll get an additional piece of the pie that ties right back into Ezekiel and the establishment of a millennial kingdom ruled by the LORD Jesus Christ from his new temple.

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