



Part 3 of 3

This final section of the book, Ezekiel transitions from judgment on Jerusalem to the hope of God's restored Presence and the New Temple.

God promises to regather His people from all over the world, to cleanse them, to create in them a "new heart," and then to place His Spirit in them (36:24-27), thus re-establishing His relationship and His Presence with His people.

Many will recall the famous song about "them bones, them dry bones" (37). This is where God tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones that then come alive. The message is that if God can make the really, really dead come to life, He can surely restore fallen Israel, and anyone else He chooses.

Throughout Israel's history, the Tabernacle and then the Temple, played a critical role because these were where the Presence of God resided with His people. But with God's Presence now gone from the Temple, Ezekiel looks to the future and describes a wonderful time when God will once again be among His people.

Ezekiel reminds us that God is sovereign and with complete control over all human history, He is moving toward His ultimate goal. This should encourage and strengthen all of us when we see evil temporarily flourishing around us. No matter the circumstances, God will ultimately triumph. Ezekiel reminds us that there is always hope, there is no situation that is so hopeless that God cannot deliver us from. If the "old dry bones" can be restored back to life, God can also put our lives back together.

As Christians we recognize how wonderful and privileged we are to know God's Presence through His indwelling Spirit, this should both thrill us and perhaps also frighten us. Accepting the wonderful Presence of God also carries responsibilities according to God's desire for us. But we're not alone, and there is always hope when God is involved!