



## SERMON NOTES:

- Before Life can be restored to dry bones, the infection of rebellion must be removed!
  - Ezekiel is a priest from Israel that was taken into Babylonian captivity during the second wave of exiles (first was in 608 BC, second 597 BC, third 586 BC)
  - Ezekiel is a contemporary of Daniel and Jeremiah, each called to prophesy to different peoples of Israel in different places.
  - Key Verse of the Book- Ezekiel 38:28-29
  - The first 24 chapters deal with God's judgement on His people. When Judgement comes, we often blame others rather than examine ourselves. The sum of these chapters is covered in Chapter 11.
  - Ezekiel 2:3-5 Ezekiel is called to speak the Word of the LORD, not change the people
1. The Glory of the LORD is all over the earth, not just confined to a Temple
    - a. Ezekiel 11:1 The Spirit always leads us in truth and points to God
    - b. Ezekiel 11:22-23 The east always reminds God's people of His return
    - c. Ezekiel 1:4 The north always reminds God's people of His power and punishment
    - d. Ezekiel 1:20, 28 The presence of God brings majesty and power
    - e. The glory of God is what we need to be reminded of so we will seek Him rather than sin against Him!
  2. False prophets remove the truth from the glory of God and turn the glory to themselves
    - a. Ezekiel 11:2-3 Not everyone who preaches proclaims truth
    - b. Ezekiel 3:3,7 The Word is sweet to the redeemed, but sour to the rebel
    - c. Ezekiel 11:12-13 Following error leads to death
    - d. Israel, both kingdoms of North and South, would undergo judgement and captivity because of their hard hearts.
  3. When repentance replaces rebellion, return to God is guaranteed.
    - a. Ezekiel 11:17-18 God will restore a remnant of His people to a relationship with Him
    - b. Ezekiel 11:19-20 God always provides a new heart for those that follow Him
    - c. Ezekiel 11:21 God will judge those who reject Him
- The seventy years that Israel would spend in captivity would reveal the true hearts of the people: some would die, others would choose to stay in Babylon rather than return, and a small portion (approximately 60,000) would return to follow their God.
  - Ezekiel 12:2 May we not dwell in the house of rebellion but rather in the house of God through obedience!



## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. The Glory of the LORD is seen throughout the book of Ezekiel, but especially in the first 24 chapters. Read Chapters 1-3, 9-11. Even in the midst of a pagan land and under the prophecy of judgment, God is lifted above it all. Ezekiel's name means "God's strength." What attributes of God do you see in these chapters and how do they provide strength for living today? How do these passages compare to the living creatures in Revelation 4-5? What is the meaning of the lion, the ox, the human, and the eagle faces? How does Matthew reveal Jesus as the lion, Mark reveal Jesus as the ox, Luke reveal Jesus as the human, and John reveal Jesus as the eagle? The value of seeing Jesus in Ezekiel is seeing Jesus in today.
2. False prophets will not prevent God's judgement, but rather hasten it. Read Chapters 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, 19, 22. False prophets and rebellious hearts have been a plague for God's people in the Old Testament as well as in our day. What are some false teachings that are spread today?
3. God promises to keep a remnant that will glorify Him. Read Chapters 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20. God's anger never lumps everyone into the same category, but rather sees people as they are. How does the life of Noah prove this truth? Read Matthew 12:36-37; Romans 14:12; I Corinthians 3:13; Revelation 20:11-15. It is important that we give an account for our actions and not just blame/listen to the words of others. What are some ways that we excuse our actions by blaming others?
4. God gives Ezekiel several signs to show His judgement and truth. Read Chapters 4, 5, 12, 21, 23-24. Read II Corinthians 12:12; John 4:48; Matthew 24:24; II Thessalonians 2:29. What role do signs and wonders play in the life of a prophet and in pursuit of God? What do we have to guard against with signs? How do the signs that Ezekiel did compare to the parables that Jesus taught in?
5. Ezekiel's wife died (Read Ezekiel 24:15-27). How did it impact Ezekiel's pursuit and obedience of God? Does following God always mean a life of ease? Read Psalm 137 and explain how it relates to Ezekiel's time in Babylon.