

‘THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD’
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL
Ezekiel 35-37
“WATCHING THE LORD BRING LIFE INTO DEAD SITUATIONS”



Have you ever been in a situation that looked beyond hopeless to you, where every dream you had about a better life appeared to be a permanent nightmare? What about those times where there was every outward appearance of life, but something seemed to be missing? Have you learned that only one Person can breathe life into hopeless situations, and He alone is the Lord God, and Sustainer of life?

After twelve years in captivity, over 600 miles from home, with thousands of disappointed and disillusioned fellow captives, Ezekiel and company heard that everything back home had been destroyed. (*Ezekiel 34:21*) It seemed like a hopeless situation, but the future is always bright for those who believe, trust, and obey the Lord.

I. IT OFTEN TAKES THE JUDGMENT OF GOD TO CAUSE PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT HE IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD. EVERY ENEMY OF HIS WILL SOON BE DESTROYED. (Ezekiel 35:1-36:14)

A. The nations and individuals that despised and mistreated the people of God will be punished for their actions and attitudes. The Lord identifies with every person that belongs to Him, and He will put to violent shame everyone that oppresses His children.

II. THE LORD WILL DISCIPLINE EVERY PERSON THAT PROFANES HIS HOLY NAME. MAKE SURE YOUR LIFESTYLE DOES NOT DISHONOR HIM. (Ezekiel 36:16-23)

A. Israel's behavior frequently did not reverence the Lord, whether they were in their land or living among peoples. There is a price to pay for not respecting the Name of the Lord. His Name stands for who He is, and what He stands for. Profanity is far more than "cuss words", it means unholiness in every way possible (Profanum means outside or away from the Temple, being separated from the Holy Place)

III. EVERYTHING THE LORD DOES IS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS HOLY NAME. YOU CAN BENEFIT IF YOU CHOOSE TO HONOR HIS NAME INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MAKE YOURSELF LOOK GOOD. (Ezekiel 36:24-38)

A. By God's design, others will acknowledge Him as they see His people living holy lives in their midst. (*Ezekiel 36:23*) What do people learn about Jesus from watching or hanging out with you???

B. Rules and regulations cannot change hearts, and behavior modification is not salvation. The Lord will give a new spirit (His Life invading yours) to everyone who believes on Him and receives forgiveness from sin.

C. For the sake of His Name (Jesus, Lord and Christ) God will "clean up from the inside out" every person who has been defiled by sin. His life in us empowers us to live in a way that pleases Him and blesses us. (*Ezekiel 36:27-37*)

IV. NEVER ALLOW YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON A SITUATION CAUSE YOU TO DOUBT THE POWER OF GOD. HE SPECIALIZES IN BRINGING LIFE OUT OF DEATH. (*Ezekiel 37:1-28*)

A. Ezekiel was surrounded by people who had given up hope. If we are observant, we will see similar situations today. Can you imagine being surrounded by skeletons?

B. Only God knows what can happen when we are powerless to do anything. If He tells you to "preach to dead bones" just do it! He has awesome power! (*v. 3-7*)

C. We often stop before the job is finished! The appearance of life can be mistaken for real spiritual life. Invite the Spirit of God into every situation! (*v. 8-10*)

D. The Jews had given up hope, instead of calling upon the God of Hope. (*v. 11*) (*Romans 15:13*) God promised He would bring their divided kingdom (Israel and Judah, North and South) back together to inhabit the Promised Land. They came back physically around 1948, but the body did not have spiritual life in it. That will happen right before the Return of Christ. (*Ezekiel 37:15-28*)

IF YOU ARE HOPELESS, YOU NEED HOPE. IF YOU ARE DEAD, THE ONLY REMEDY IS LIFE. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS MORE THAN ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE LIFE HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE, AND THE LIFE YOU NEED. WILL YOU TRUST HIM TODAY?

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BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1. When did you realize that you could never measure up to what God required from you until He first gave you a new heart and His life? Is your behavior consistent with someone who dies not profane His Name?***
- 2. Name a seemingly hopeless situation in your life that God breathed new life into. Has He ever commanded you to do something that seemed useless and you obeyed Him anyway? What was the result?***