

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

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Ezekiel at a Glance

Ezekiel's Vision and Call	Ezek 1–3
Judgment against Judah	Chs. 4–24
Judgment against the Nations	Chs. 25–32
Hope for Israel and Judah	Chs. 33–48

Hope for Israel and Judah

- ❖ **The resurrection of Yahweh's people (37:1–14)**
 - ❖ **Resurrection (vv. 12–13)**
 - ❖ **Divine presence and life (v. 14)**
 - ❖ **The land: a context for relationship (v. 14)**
 - ❖ **A knowledge of God (v. 14)**

❖ The fulfillment of Yahweh's eternal covenant (37:15–28)

❖ A reunified people in the land under one king (vv. 15–22)

❖ Take, gather, bring: Deut 30:4–5. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there Yahweh your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And Yahweh your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it.

- ❖ **One king: Ezek 34:22–24. I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be 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 he shall be their shepherd. 24 And I, Yahweh, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am Yahweh; I have spoken.**
- ❖ **Unified kingdom, not two**

- ❖ **Spiritual and communal integrity:**
 - ❖ **Cleansing from sin and covenant with God under the Messiah (vv. 23–24a)**
 - ❖ **A new commitment to Yahweh's will (v. 24b)**
 - ❖ **Lasting occupation of the renewed promised land under the Messiah (v. 25)**
- ❖ **Covenantal integrity and the presence of God (vv. 26–27)**
- ❖ **Mission accomplished (v. 28)**

Hope for Israel and Judah

❖ Ezekiel's vision of the new covenant (36:22–32)

❖ VV. 17–21: The setting

❖ Israel's defilement and Yahweh's justified curse (vv. 17–18)

❖ Ezek 22:4. You have become guilty by the blood that you have shed, and defiled by the idols that you have made, and you have brought your days near, the appointed time of your years has come. Therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all the countries.

❖ The profaning of Yahweh's name (vv. 19–21)

❖ Exod 34:14 (DeRouchie). For you shall worship no other god, for Yahweh is jealous with respect to his name, a jealous God.

- ❖ **V. 22: The prologue – the new covenant as a divine-name reclamation project**
- ❖ **Deut 4:30–31. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to Yahweh your God and obey his voice. ³¹ For Yahweh your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.**

- ❖ V. 23: The *goal* of new covenant transformation: missions for the sake of worship.
- ❖ **God's action:** sanctifying his name
 - ❖ Yahweh will display the reality and value of his transcendent fullness through his people.
- ❖ **Result:** the nations will know Yahweh
 - ❖ Acts 1:8. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

❖ Vv. 24–25: The *basis* for new covenant transformation: restoration from the curse exile and cleansing from sin

❖ **God's action:** take > gather > bring > cleanse

❖ Deut 30:4–5. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there Yahweh your God will *gather* you, and from there he will *take* you. ⁵ And Yahweh your God will *bring* you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it.

❖ Jer 16:14–15. Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when it shall no longer be said, “As Yahweh lives who brought up the peoples of Israel out of the land of Egypt,” ¹⁵ but “As Yahweh lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.” For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

- ❖ **Luke 9:30–31**. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of *departure* (lit., *exodus*), which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.
- ❖ **Eph. 1:7**. In [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
- ❖ **Col. 1:13–14**. [The Father] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

❖ **Result:** Israel will be clean

❖ Israel's cleanness implies that Yahweh's wrath against their sin has been satisfied.

❖ Ezek 22:15. I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you through the countries, and I will consume your uncleanness out of you.

❖ Ezek 24:13. On account of your unclean lewdness, because I would have cleansed you and you were not cleansed from your uncleanness, you shall not be cleansed anymore till I have satisfied my fury upon you.

- ❖ **Water + Spirit in Ezek 36:25–27 appears to provide the backdrop to Jesus' discussion of new birth in John 3:**
 - ❖ **John 3:3, 5. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . ⁵ Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**
- ❖ **Into this context Jesus' death is portrayed as the vicarious curse judgment that brings salvation:**
 - ❖ **John 3:14–15. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

❖ Vv. 26–28: The *nature* of the new covenant transformation: internal rebirth and reconstitution of the God-people-land relationship

❖ **God's action:** Heart transplant to Israel > Spirit within Israel > cause them to obey

❖ Deut 30:6. And Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, for the sake of your life.

❖ Jer 31:33. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Yahweh: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- ❖ **Jer 32:40**. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.
- ❖ **Rom. 2:29**. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
- ❖ **2 Cor. 3:3, 6**. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. . . . ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

❖ **Result:** Israel will follow God's ways, dwell in the land, and the covenant relationship will be enjoyed

- ❖ VV. 29–31: The *ballast* of new covenant transformation: humiliation as fuel for sustained adoration.
- ❖ **God's action:** Save Israel from their defilements (not just forgiven [v. 25] but delivered) and sustained physical provision
 - ❖ Deliverance: Ezek 37:23. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
 - ❖ Provision: Ezek 34:22, 25–29.

Ezek. 34:22–29. I will rescue my flock; 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, Yahweh, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am Yahweh; 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 Yahweh, 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.

- ❖ **Response:** Israel will remember and loathe their past sinfulness.
- ❖ Ezekiel's vision of the new covenant regularly includes the redeemed having a deep humiliation over past sin:
 - ❖ Ezek. 6:9.
 - ❖ Ezek. 16:62–63. I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am Yahweh, ⁶³that 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 Yahweh.
 - ❖ Ezek. 20:43. And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.

- ❖ **Loathing sin is the antidote for crushing pride and for sustaining God-dependence.**
- ❖ **God-glorifying, not self-deprecating shame, for the result is that “through you I will vindicate my holiness before their eyes” (Ezek 36:23).**
- ❖ **The humility of the new covenant draws attention not to self but to the mercies of God, ultimately shown in Christ.**

Charles Simeon (1759–1836)

“I have continually had such a sense of my sinfulness as would sink me into utter despair, if I had not an assured view of the sufficiency and willingness of Christ to save me to the uttermost. And at the same time I had such a sense of my acceptance through Christ as would upset my little bark, if I had not ballast at the bottom sufficient to sink a vessel of no ordinary size.” (Quoted in Piper, *The Roots of Endurance*, 107.)

“There are but two objects that I have ever desired for these forty years to behold; the one, is my own vileness; and the other is, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.... This I seek to be, not only *humble and thankful* but *humbled in thankfulness*, before my God and Savior continually.” (Quoted in Piper, *The Roots of Endurance*, 108.)

“I have had deep and abundant cause for humiliation, [but] I have never ceased to wash in that fountain that was opened for sin and uncleanness, or to cast myself upon the tender mercy of my reconciled God.” (Quoted in Piper, *The Roots of Endurance*, 110.)