

Ezekiel 36 The New Covenant

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

Without a Goal = Failure



Have you ever taken part in a race? When I was in high school I was on the track team. I was a high hurdler and ran the 110 and 220 yard races. I remember the first time I looked from the start line at a “wall” of ten hurdles, each 42 inches high, ahead of me. I thought, I won’t be able to make it. But with the starting gun I pushed ahead. I quickly learned success came from keeping my eye on the goal and not the number of hurdles before me.



I remember one race where I was far ahead of my competitors. I quit looking ahead to the goal and looked around, like a sightseer and not a racer. I almost lost the race. My father and brother were watching and they started to laugh at me; also they never let me forget that race.

God well understands humans when it comes to great tasks ahead. **Without a goal, they will fail,** so too, for Israel.

God’s Encouragement for Israel

It is very important to understand the sequence of the visions given by the Lord that begins with Ezekiel 36 and continues to the end of the book.

Recall, that Israel was taken captive by Babylon and faced a 70-year captivity. Jerusalem was in ruins with only a small remnant left behind. **Would there be a land of Israel to go back to?**

Because of their fears, God gave Israel’s captives encouragement through Ezekiel – to turn their eyes on the goal!



Before Israel hears God’s analysis of their desperate spiritual state in chapter 37 and faces a war in chapters 38 and 39 that will start the Tribulation, God presents Israel’s ultimate glorious **goal** that awaits that nation following these things. Thus God gave Ezekiel a vision of His goal for Israel in chapter 36.

The goal was so important that God delivered it twice to the exiled nation, here in **chapter 36, and in chapter 31 of Jeremiah. He again refers to it in Hebrews 8.**

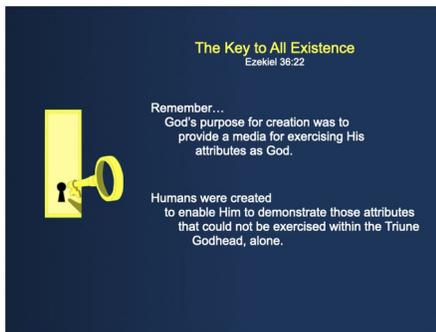
If God declared it in the Old and New Testament, it must be important for us to understand, as well.

At the Starting Line

Like all important things in life, we need to know the “why” or purpose of a task. God declares this in Ezekiel 36 verse 22:

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

This is the key to all existence...it is not for our own sakes, but for God's name's sake – His glory.



Remember, I have repeated many times that God's purpose for creation was to provide a media for **exercising** His attributes as God, i.e., love, justness, compassion, grace, etc.

Humans were created to enable Him to **demonstrate** those attributes that could not be exercised within the Triune Godhead alone.

Therefore, Israel, the whole house of Israel, will be His instrument for accomplishing this task. The nation are His “runners” if you

will, following my illustration.

In Jeremiah 31:31, we find that Israel will be a united kingdom when they start the race, for, God will make a new covenant with the house of Israel **and** the house of Judah in the future.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:



The goal will include the **reunification** of the people of Israel into one kingdom that will last for eternity,

Jeremiah 31:35-37:



³⁵ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The **LORD of hosts** [change of name reminds us of His might to perform it] is his name: ³⁶ If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. ³⁷ Thus saith the LORD; **If** heaven above can be

measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, **I will also cast off all the seed of Israel** for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

This tells Israel and us, that we have the power of our Creator God enabling us to carry out the tasks He gives us.

The Purpose of the Task



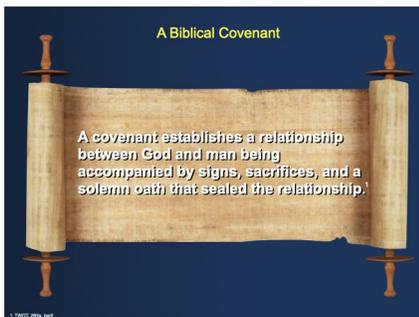
God gives three aspects of this new covenant.

- 1) He will return the land to its **original purpose** "like the garden of Eden" – vs. 35 - that is, He will restore a place for Him to dwell with man.
- 2) He will demonstrate that the LORD of Hosts **accomplishes** what He says He will do! - "I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it." - verse 36
- 3) He will cause them to remember His "solemn feasts" vs. 38

that prefigured His plan of history, demonstrating to them that He planned it all.

God's New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31 declares this covenant is a new agreement between God and His people that replaces the old covenant made with Moses at Sinai.



Biblically, a "covenant" establishes a **relationship** between God and man being "accompanied by signs, sacrifices, and a solemn oath that sealed the relationship..."¹

Hence, this new covenant's accompaniment will be the Tribulation and its signs, prior to its fulfillment.

Interestingly, we can see God's use of the "solemn feasts" of verse 38 in verses 24-30. The time period of verse 24 ends with the Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Atonement is the cleansing of verse 25.

Verses 26 through 30 are pictured in the Feast of Tabernacles, which represents the Millennium.



Let us look at the New Covenant.

- 1) **Israel will possess the land promised by God.**

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Ezekiel 36:24

And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 36:27

1 TWOT, 282a berit.

And ye shall dwell in the land; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:28

- 2) **Israel will be atoned (cleansed) from its sins.**

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Ezekiel 36:25

- 3) **Israel will have a new heart and spirit.**

²⁶ *A new heart also will I give you [pl], and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Ezekiel 36:26, 27

[cf. Romans 8:9 where it speaks of the Spirit dwelling individuals rather than a nation]

- 4) **Israel will live in complete obedience to the law of the LORD.**

...cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 36:27

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

- 5) **Israel will have physical blessings in the land.**

²⁹ *I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.*

Ezekiel 36:29,30

- 6) **Israel will abhor their sins.**

³¹ *Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. ³² Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.*

Ezekiel 36:31, 32

- 7) **God will do this for His name's sake, not for Israel's sake.**

Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

Ezekiel 36:32

- 8) **Israel will know their God is the LORD.**

As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 36:38