

The Major Prophets

Lesson Plan: Ezekiel Part 3 “ The Lord is There”

Opening Prayer

Review Ezekiel Parts 1 and 2

Introduce the Video: Ezekiel has the privilege of recording two major prophetic events that have not yet been fulfilled. I long to see them in my lifetime-- the battle of Gog from Magog vs. Israel, and the building of the Millennial Temple, the Holy District, and the river of life! Be sure to write down something new you learned from the video to share.

Play Video: (15:57)

Discussion Questions:

1. If you can, name something new you learned from the video. Why do you think this scripture is rarely studied in churches today?
2. Ezekiel foretells a "latter days" battle known as the Battle of Gog of Magog. Do you believe this battle could happen soon? Why or why not?
3. God is going to allow this battle to show himself strong to the world, but mostly to attract Israel's attention, to bring the country back to Him. What has God done in your life to attract your attention, to bring you back to him?
4. Ezekiel was allowed to see the Glory of the Lord depart from the temple in Jerusalem, but then blessed to see the Glory of the Lord fill the Millennial Temple. Why do you think God wanted this vision to be recorded in his Holy Book?
5. What was your greatest take away from learning about Ezekiel?

Closure: The bible has much to say about the Millennial Kingdom on the Earth! This portion of scripture really gives us a glimpse into what this will look like!! This gives us much Tikva---Hope!

Final Prayer

Today's Scriptures: Ezekiel 38-48

Notes for Ezekiel Part 3: “The Lord is There”

Introduction

- Tikva and Ezekiel are living with the captives of Judah along the River Chebar in Babylon.
- The city of Jerusalem had fallen
- Jeremiah had prophesied the Jews would be in Babylon for 70 years before they would be allowed to return.
- Israel had been in the land for 490 years... and during that time, according to the Torah, they had been commanded to let the land “rest” one year, every seven years. That meant that no crops were to have been planted that year. Rebellious Israel had never obeyed that command, so Yahweh told them, they were to be in Babylon for 70 years, to make up for our years of disobedience, and he was going to give the land a “rest” himself!
- Tikva--hope--is what the people needed.

Vision of Battle with Gog of Magog

- The vision was definitely for the “latter years” (38:8)
- Ezekiel told of a great battle that would take place against the united country of Israel.
- Israel in those days would be a peaceful people, dwelling without city walls, bars, or gates.(38:11)
A coalition of countries would come against Israel, to plunder and take booty.
- The leader of this coalition, also known as “Gog” would be a mighty ruler, of Sythian descent, from the land of “Magog” or Russia, as you call it today.
- a military force of the combined modern day nations of Russia, Turkey, Iran, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, and Libya, will ascend like a storm covering the land like a cloud!
- Saudi Arabia, and England will stand by and watch, but will not offer aid. There is no mention of the role of the current day United States.

God Fights for Israel

- The entire battle is planned by Yahweh! When He supernaturally intervenes and wins the battle for Israel, Yahweh God will be hallowed by Gog’s defeat in front of the eyes of the world!
- There will be a mighty earthquake that will shake the entire earth!
- Then, He will bring Gog’s army to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed! There will be flooding rain, great hailstones, and fire and brimstone
- God then promised that the attacking army would fall on the mountains of Israel, and become prey for the birds!
- He would send “fire” on the homeland of Gog,(on Russia,) and on the coastlands. (Nuclear?)
- God’s holy name will be known and revered by his people Israel once more
- Israel will be burying the bodies of their enemies for seven months!
- And they will have enough fuel from burning the discarded battle weapons to last for seven years!
- Gog will be buried in Israel, along with his army, and they will name his burial ground, the “Valley of Gog’s Multitude!”

Vision of the Millennial Temple

- 14 years after the fall of Jerusalem, the hand of the Lord came upon Ezekiel once again, for one final, magnificent prophetic vision.
- He wanted Ezekiel to know that he would, once again, rebuild “the desire of Israel’s eyes.” Just as Ezekiel would see his beloved Eliana again, (the desire of his eyes,) so too would Israel behold their temple in the last days.
- He took Ezekiel back into the visions of God, back to Jerusalem once more.
- He took him and set him on the top of a very high mountain where he could see a great city.
- The man who escorted him throughout the vision had an appearance of bronze.
- He had a line of flax, and a measuring rod in his hand.
- He told him to pay attention closely, so that he could tell the house of Israel everything he had seen.
- So, Ezekiel watched carefully, as the man-angel transported him to see an amazing structure--the future temple of Yahweh!
- His guide showed him the outside wall, and the Eastern and Southern entrance gates.
- Ezekiel’s bronze guide measured each part precisely so Ezekiel could carefully record the dimensions! (Ezekiel 40-42)
- When they were finished, the guide brought Ezekiel to the Eastern gate. He looked up, and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east!
- His voice was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone from his glory! He described the glory he saw as being identical to the vision he saw by the River Chebar!
- Ezekiel was so overwhelmed by it, he fell on his face. (43:3)
- He saw the glory of the Lord fill the temple again!
- Just as he had seen it depart from the first temple, he witnessed the glory fill this new one!
- Then a voice from the glory cloud spoke to Ezekiel, while a man stood next to him. What He said next was amazing. Ezekiel was careful to record all that was said. (43:3)

What the Voice Said

- This would be the place of the throne of Yahweh!
- This would be the very place where the Lord would dwell in the midst of Israel forever.
- No more would the children of Israel defile his holy name in his glorious temple!
- Ezekiel was instructed to describe God’s House to the “house” of Israel, and keep record of the pattern and the measurements.
- There would be many new ordinances and laws regarding the new temple!
- there will be a “holy district” in Israel. It will be roughly 7.1 by 5.68 miles wide.
- In the holy district there will be a square plot for the sanctuary, the most holy place.
- This holy section of land will belong to the priests, who come near to minister to the Lord, and they will live there in their houses.
- There will also be an area designated for the Levites, about half of that size.
- Next to the holy district, there will be a strip of land that will be common land, owned by all Israel.

- The “Prince” of Israel will have a section on one side. The prince will not be allowed to own or purchase any property outside his allotted section. (Chapter 45)

The Prince of Israel

- Who will be this “Prince” of Israel? No one knows.
- God was careful to set laws defining the behaviors and roles of the future “princes.”
- There could be no violence or plundering.
- The prince must rule with justice and honest scales.
- Yahweh even defines and changes the measuring system for us!
- The prince was to provide livestock for offerings given at the Feasts Days--the Passover, Feast of Tabernacles, Year of Jubilee, the Sabbaths and New Moons, and even the daily sacrifices.

The River Of Life

- Then, the angel/man brought Ezekiel back to the door of the temple.
- He looked, and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple pouring out toward the east.
- Ezekiel held us all spellbound as he described what happened as he and his “angel/guide” followed the stream.
- The water flowed downhill eastward and as it flowed it became deeper and deeper. By the time they were 6000 feet from the source, it was a huge river--large enough to swim across!
- The new “healing river” flowed all the way down to the Jordan Valley and entered the Dead Sea!
- The entire dead sea was “healed” and came to life! Fish could live there!
- Moreover, every place the river flowed came alive, too! It brought life! Ezekiel saw fishermen lining the banks of the river, spreading their nets!
- Along the banks of the river, all kinds of fruit trees grew!
- Yahweh said, their leaves would never wither, and their fruit would never fail!
- They would bear fruit every month of the year, because their water flowed from the sanctuary. And the leaves? They would be used for medicines! Oh, how I wish I long to see God’s river of life!

Allotment of Land

- God gave Ezekiel further instructions regarding the allotment of the land
- After defining the borders of the land of Israel, he instructed them to divide the land according to the tribes of Israel by lot.
- The tribe of Joseph would receive two portions, of course, and this time, any stranger dwelling among a tribe could have a portion of inheritance property also.
- So the land was divided up by the Lord God with a section for each tribe,
- The map of the portions looked like a stack of rectangles, one for each tribe, from north to south. (See map.)

- Dan's portion was on the northern border, and Gad's was along the Southern border, with the other tribes and the Holy District in between
- . Of course, the holy city would be in their midst. The gates of the city would be named for the 12 tribes of Israel.
- And the name of the city, the new name? It will be, "The Lord is There."

Conclusion:

- Our hope, our Tikvah, was that one day, our nation would be revived and come to life again.
- Once again God would dwell in our midst, and we would be his people and he would be our God.
- Ezekiel never made it back to Jerusalem or to Judah when the exiles returned to rebuild the temple.
- But Joshua and Zeubbabel, along with many others did eventually return.
- God's plans for us truly were for our good, and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope.