

- I) V1-7 INTRO: And you son of man prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say O mountains of Israel
 - a) Ch 36 begins to give wonderful promises to the nation of Israel
 - 1) Though the nation has been through much suffering, God in the future would restore her
 - 2) In the future, God was going to judge the nations that caused her pain, and once again bless her
- II) THE KEY: The nation must undergo what is called spiritual regeneration for this to happen
 - a) When they as a nation are transformed by genuine faith in Him, then the blessings will come
 - 1) IMPORTANT: We will see this in V24 to the end of the chapter
- III) IMPORTANT: This chapter must be understood to speak of promises that are literally fulfilled
 - a) There will be a literal land of Israel, a literal regeneration, and a literal kingdom under Messiah
 - 1) This is speaking of the conversion of Israel: We will see this as we go through the chapter
- IV) AS WE BEGIN: We should note that the first 15 verses are a continuation of what began in Ch 35
 - a) This is simply the continuation of that single prophecy
- V) V1 AND YOU: Son of man prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say O mountains of Israel
 - a) Ezekiel speaks to the mountains of Israel so that people will understand God's future plans
 - 1) The mountains represent the people of Israel as well as the physical land of Israel
 - 2) HEAR: Concerning what God is going to do as He judges their enemies and blesses them
- VI) V2 THUS: Says the LORD GOD Because the enemy has said of you Aha! The ancient heights have
 - a) Your enemies have rejoiced over your suffering and think the land has become theirs
 - 1) The *ancient heights* speaks of the hills, the city of Jerusalem, and the Temple mount
 - 2) They think that they will take possession of a desolate land because of Jewish exile
- VII) V3 THEREFORE: Prophecy and say Thus says the LORD GOD Because they made you desolate
 - a) The enemy intends for Israel to remain desolate, and believe that they are in full control of Israel
 - 1) Edom especially believed that they would occupy and own the land of Israel
 - 2) REST OF NATIONS: Speaks of those not taken by Babylon: Ammon, Moab, and Philistia
- VIII) V3 LIPS OF TALKERS: People were talking about how Israel was abandoned, defaming her
 - a) Lam 2:14-16 Your prophets have seen for you False and deceptive visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, To bring back your captives, But have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions. All who pass by clap their hands at you; They hiss and shake their heads At the daughter of Jerusalem: "Is this the city that is called 'The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth'?" All your enemies have opened their mouth against you; They hiss and gnash their teeth. They say, "We have swallowed her up! Surely this is the day we have waited for; We have found it, we have seen it!"
- IX) V4-5 THEREFORE: O mountains of Israel hear the word of the LORD GOD Thus says the LORD GOD
 - a) God takes note of the land: mountains, hills, rivers, valleys, wastes, forsaken and plundered cities
 - 1) BURNING JEALOUSY: Reveals how deeply God loves and is committed to the nation
 - 2) JOY AND SPITE: Were the emotions that Israel's enemies experienced at her suffering
 - 3) They think they will possess and plunder what belongs to Israel and is occupied by God (35:10)
- X) V6-7 THEREFORE: Prophecy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains, the hills
 - a) OATH: His promise is that Israel's enemies shall experience what they have done to Israel
- I) V8-11 BUT YOU: O mountains of Israel you shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to My

- a) In the future, Israel will once again be productive, and repopulated in preparation for Jesus
 - 1) What we see today in Israel is only the beginning of what actually will exist under Messiah
 - 2) Obviously, with God time has a different sense than we have!
 - 3) 2 Pe 3:8 Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- II) V12-15 YES: I will cause men to walk on you My people Israel they shall take possession of you
 - a) The land, though barren at that time would once again be populated, and in peace
 - 1) When Jesus rules and reigns, the nation will once again be blessed by God

- III) V14-15 THEREFORE: You shall devour men no more nor bereave your nation anymore says the LORD
 - a) During Messiah's millennial rule, death will still occur because people will still be able to sin
 - 1) When someone dies, they will be recognized as young, but it will be known they had sinned
 - 2) Is 65:20 No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

- IV) V15 NOR: Will I let you hear the taunts of the nations anymore nor bear the reproach of the peoples
 - a) Instead of being taunted, people will know God is their God
 - 1) People will no longer taunt believers in God
 - 2) Mt 5:11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

- V) V16-21 MOREOVER: The word of the LORD came to me saying Son of man when the house of Israel
 - a) Ezekiel reminds them of why they had been exiled: through their disobedience and idolatry
 - 1) V20 Even when dispersed, they continued profaning the name of the Lord by their evil
 - 2) V21 Such is the effect when believers do not honor God with their lives: He is profaned

- VI) V22-23 THEREFORE: Say to the house of Israel Thus says the LORD GOD I do not do this for your
 - a) When all is said and done, by restoring Israel to the land He simply fulfills His word
 - 1) Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said To your descendants I will give this land
 - 2) Gen 17:8 I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.
 - 3) This reveals to the world that God and His word can be trusted, *and it is all His grace!*

- VII) V24-25 FOR: I will take you from among the nations gather you out of all countries and bring you
 - a) This is a promise to literally return them to the literal land He gave to their ancestors
 - 1) As He re-gathers them, He also begins to cleanse them of their sins: national conversion
 - 2) V25 Sprinkle clean water: purification representing justification (Num 19; Ps 119:9)
 - 3) Eph 5:26 (the church is) sanctified and cleansed...by the washing of water by the word

- VIII) V26-28 I WILL: Give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you I will take the heart of stone out of
 - a) NOTICE: This is all of God, by His action on their behalf: a new heart, and His Spirit will be in them
 - 1) This is the new birth, as a new heart in Scripture speaks of a new nature: regeneration
 - 2) Jn 3:5 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

- I) INSTEAD OF REBELLION: Love and obedience will be the result of having His Spirit within them
 - a) They will keep His judgments and do them, because they will be thankful to Him

- 1) Jer 24:7 I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.
 - 2) V28 They will dwell in the land, as His children
- II) V29-30 I WILL DELIVER: You from all your uncleannesses I will call for the grain and multiply it
- a) When Israel fully returns to God, the land will be blessed by Him
 - 1) He will cause the grain to grow, so they never experience famine again
 - 2) Is 35:1-2 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God.
- III) V31-32 THEN: You will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good and you will loathe
- a) When they remember their sins, it causes them to have a humble sorrow over it
 - 1) As they see the beauty of His grace and blessings, it humbles them even further
- IV) V33-38 THUS: Says the LORD GOD On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities I will also
- a) In that time, God promises to bless them and that the land will be beautiful, and fruitful
 - 1) God will receive glory as the nations see how He has blessed Israel
 - 2) Once again, the nation of Israel will be able to fellowship with God and make requests of Him
 - 3) Population will increase, and the ruined cities will once again be inhabited