

Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 18, Israel's Renewal (Ezek 36:16-38) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 18, Israel's Renewal (Ezek 36:16-38), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Allen's lecture focuses on Ezekiel 36:16-38, a pivotal passage concerning Israel's renewal. The lecture analyzes the private message to Ezekiel regarding Israel's sin and God's profaned name, followed by the public message of restoration for the exiles. **God addresses Israel's uncleanness and the resulting desecration of His name among the nations.** He promises to cleanse them, give them a new heart and spirit, and restore fertility to their land, not for their sake, but to sanctify His own name. **This renewal involves forgiveness, internal transformation, and the repopulation of desolate areas.** The lecture connects these themes to New Testament concepts of being "born of water and spirit," emphasizing God's grace and the fulfillment of the covenant.

2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 18 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Ezekiel).



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on18.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 18, Israel's Renewal (Ezek 36:16-38)

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Leslie Allen's Lecture 18 on Ezekiel 36:16-38, focusing on Israel's renewal:

Briefing Document: Ezekiel 36:16-38 - Israel's Renewal

Main Theme: This passage (Ezekiel 36:16-38) is at the heart of the positive teaching of Ezekiel. It focuses on Israel's renewal and restoration, addressing the problems of Israel's sinfulness and God's damaged reputation due to the exile.

Structure: The passage is divided into a private message to Ezekiel and a public message to the exiles.

- **Private Message (Ezekiel's Ears Only):** verses 17-21 outlines two problems needing resolution.
- **Public Message (To the Exiles):** verses 22-38 divided into three parts, each introduced by "Thus says the Lord God," and focuses on God's solutions to those problems.

Key Problems Addressed:

1. **Israel's Sinfulness (Verses 17-19):** The primary problem is the sinfulness of the people, which is presented as ritual uncleanness defiling the land. Allen notes, "Mortal, when the house of Israel lived on their own soil, they defiled it with their ways and their deeds. Their conduct, in my sight, was like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual period." This uncleanness resulted in their expulsion from the land. "I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed among the countries. In accordance with their conduct and their deeds, I judged them." The loss of the land signified a broken relationship between God and the people.
2. **God's Profaned Name (Verses 20-21):** The exile, while a consequence of Israel's sin, also damaged God's reputation among the nations. Allen states, "But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that it was said of them, these are the people of the Lord. And yet they had to go out of his land." In the ancient Near East, a nation's god was tied to its land. Israel's exile suggested Yahweh's weakness compared to other gods like Marduk. God's name was "profaned," meaning treated as common and lacking sanctity.

God's Solutions (Public Message):

- **Addressing the Profaned Name (Verses 22-24):** God's primary motivation for restoring Israel is to sanctify His own name and demonstrate His power to the nations. God declares, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came." The return from exile would be a demonstration of God's holiness and power, proving He is the Lord.
- **Addressing Israel's Sinfulness (Verses 25-28):** This involves an *internal* transformation of the people.
- **Forgiveness and Cleansing (Verse 25):** "I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you." This signifies a fresh start and the removal of past sins.
- **New Heart and Spirit (Verses 26-27):** God promises to give them a "new heart" and put a "new spirit" within them, replacing their "heart of stone" with a "heart of flesh." Allen emphasizes, "I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." This new spirit would enable them to follow God's will. This theme is echoed in Ezekiel 11:19-20.
- **Restoration of the Covenant (Verse 28):** This internal transformation allows for the renewal of the covenant relationship: "You shall be my people, and I will be your God."
- **Renewal of the Land (Verses 29-30, 33-36):** God will restore fertility to the land, ending famine and removing the disgrace associated with it. The desolate land will become like the Garden of Eden, signifying a complete transformation. "The land that was desolate shall be tilled instead of being the desolation that was in the sight of all who pass by. They will say that this desolate land has become like the Garden of Eden."
- **Remembering and Regretting the Past (Verses 31-32):** The people are to remember their sinful past and loathe themselves for it. This regret is meant to motivate them to avoid repeating their mistakes. Allen highlights, "Then you shall remember your evil ways and your dealings that were not good, and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominable deeds." This also reinforces that God's actions are based on His own character and purpose, not on any inherent goodness in the people.

Addressing Concerns of Population Size (Verses 37-38): God is sensitive to the exiles concerns that so few had survived the Babylonian campaign and promises to increase their population like a flock. "I will also let the House of Israel ask me to do this for them. To increase their population like a flock... So shall the ruined towns be filled with flocks of people. Then they shall know that I am they, the Lord."

New Testament Connections:

- **The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9):** The petition "hallowed be your name" harkens back to Ezekiel 36:23, emphasizing the sanctifying of God's name.
- **Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3):** Jesus's teaching on being "born of water and spirit" echoes Ezekiel 36:25-26, referring to cleansing/forgiveness and the gift of the new spirit, respectively.

Key Takeaways:

- Ezekiel 36:16-38 presents a comprehensive vision of Israel's restoration, addressing both the external problem of God's reputation and the internal problem of Israel's sinfulness.
- God's motivation is primarily to restore His own honor and demonstrate His power, not to reward Israel's merit.
- The restoration involves both forgiveness and a fundamental transformation of the people through a new heart and spirit.
- The passage has significant theological implications, influencing New Testament teachings on salvation and the nature of God.

4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 18, Israel's Renewal (Ezek 36:16-38)

Israel's Renewal: A Study Guide to Ezekiel 36:16-38

Review Topics

- The structure of Ezekiel 36:16-38 (private vs. public messages)
- The two problems identified in the private message (Israel's sin and God's profaned name)
- The nature of Israel's sin and how it is depicted (ritual uncleanness, defilement of the land)
- The consequences of Israel's sin (exile and dispersion)
- The significance of the land in the relationship between God and Israel
- How the exile impacted God's reputation among other nations
- God's motivations for restoring Israel (sanctifying His name, not Israel's merit)
- The two-fold solution to the problem of Israel's sin:
- Forgiveness and cleansing (symbolized by clean water)
- A new heart and spirit (internal transformation)
- The connection between Ezekiel 36 and New Testament concepts (Lord's Prayer, being born of water and spirit)
- The renewal of the land as part of God's restorative work
- The importance of Israel remembering and regretting their past sins
- The promise of population growth after the return from exile

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. According to Ezekiel, what are the two main problems that God addresses in Ezekiel 36:16-38?
2. How does Ezekiel describe Israel's sinfulness in verses 17-19, and what is the consequence of their actions?

3. Why did the exile of Israel cause a problem for God's reputation among the nations?
4. What does it mean that God will "sanctify" his name, and why is this important in Ezekiel 36?
5. According to Ezekiel, what are the two main ways that God plans to resolve the problem of Israel's sin?
6. How is the concept of "sprinkling clean water" used metaphorically in Ezekiel 36:25?
7. What is the significance of God promising to give Israel a "new heart" and a "new spirit?"
8. According to Dr. Allen, how does Jesus' teaching in John 3 relate to the promises made in Ezekiel 36:25-27?
9. How will the land be renewed, according to Ezekiel 36:33-36, and what will the nations say when they see this?
10. Why is it important for the Israelites to remember their sin and loathe themselves for it?

Quiz: Answer Key

1. The two main problems are Israel's sinfulness and the profaning of God's holy name among the nations due to their exile. These two problems are closely connected, as Israel's sin led to their exile, which in turn caused God's name to be dishonored.
2. Ezekiel describes Israel's sinfulness as ritual uncleanness, comparing their deeds to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual period. The consequence of their actions is that God poured out his wrath upon them, scattering them among the nations in exile.
3. The exile caused a problem for God's reputation because, in the ancient Near East, religion was often tied to territory. The nations saw Israel's exile as evidence that Yahweh was weak and unable to protect his people or his land.
4. To "sanctify" God's name means to restore its holiness and specialness in the eyes of the nations, reversing the damage done by the exile. This is important because God's reputation and honor are at stake.

5. God plans to resolve the problem of Israel's sin through forgiveness and cleansing, symbolized by the sprinkling of clean water, and through an internal transformation by giving them a new heart and a new spirit to obey his commands.
6. The "sprinkling of clean water" is used metaphorically to represent God's forgiveness and cleansing of Israel from their past sins and uncleanness. It signifies a fresh start and the removal of the defilement caused by their transgressions.
7. The promise of a "new heart" and a "new spirit" signifies an internal transformation where God removes their hard-heartedness and replaces it with a sensitivity to his will. This enables them to follow his statutes and obey his ordinances, ensuring they do not repeat their past sins.
8. Dr. Allen suggests that Jesus' teaching in John 3 about being "born of water and spirit" echoes Ezekiel 36:25-27. Being born of water corresponds to God's cleansing and forgiveness, while being born of the Spirit refers to the gift of a new spirit, enabling one to live according to God's will.
9. The land will be renewed such that desolate places will be rebuilt and cultivated, transforming it into a garden of Eden. The surrounding nations will recognize that Yahweh rebuilt ruined places and replanted what was desolate.
10. It's important for the Israelites to remember their sin and loathe themselves for it because this regret can serve as a powerful motivation not to repeat their sinful behavior in the future. It also highlights the grace of God and their lack of inherent merit.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the land in the relationship between God and Israel, as portrayed in Ezekiel 36:16-38. How does the loss and renewal of the land reflect the state of their covenant relationship?
2. Analyze the two-fold solution that God provides to the problem of Israel's sinfulness in Ezekiel 36:16-38. How do forgiveness and internal transformation work together to address the root causes of their disobedience?
3. Explore the connection between Ezekiel 36:16-38 and New Testament themes, focusing on the concepts of sanctifying God's name and being born of water and

spirit. How do these connections enhance our understanding of God's plan of salvation?

4. Examine the theme of God's motivation for restoring Israel in Ezekiel 36:16-38. How does the emphasis on sanctifying God's name challenge or affirm traditional understandings of God's grace and mercy?
5. Compare and contrast the problems of Israel's sinfulness and the profaning of God's name, and the ways that God resolves them. Explain why God prioritizes the sanctification of his own name, and what that indicates about his nature and purposes.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Exile:** The state of being barred from one's native country, typically for political or punitive reasons. In the context of Ezekiel, it refers to the forced removal of the Israelites from their land to Babylon.
- **Profane:** To treat something sacred with disrespect or contempt; to treat something holy as common.
- **Sanctify:** To set apart as holy; to consecrate or purify. In Ezekiel 36, it refers to God's act of restoring the holiness of His name.
- **Uncleanness:** A state of ritual impurity that prevents one from participating in sacred activities, such as worshipping in the temple. It is often used metaphorically to represent sin.
- **Covenant:** A formal agreement or treaty between two parties, often used in the Old Testament to describe the relationship between God and Israel.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or false gods.
- **Diaspora:** The dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel, in this context as a result of the Babylonian conquest.
- **Holiness:** The state of being sacred or consecrated to God.
- **Restoration:** The act of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition; in Ezekiel, it refers to the return of the Israelites to their land and the renewal of their relationship with God.
- **New Covenant:** A new agreement or promise. In Ezekiel, a promise of a new heart and a new spirit allowing the Israelites to follow God's law.

5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 18, Israel's Renewal (Ezek 36:16-38), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source, formatted in markdown:

FAQ: Ezekiel 36:16-38 and Israel's Renewal

- **Question 1: What is the main focus of Ezekiel 36:16-38?**
- This passage focuses on Israel's renewal after the exile, specifically addressing two major problems and their resolution. The core message is about God's plan to restore Israel and demonstrate his holiness and power to the nations.
- **Question 2: What are the two problems that Ezekiel 36:16-38 identifies?**
- The first problem is Israel's sinfulness and ritual uncleanness, which led to their exile. This is described in verses 17-19, where their deeds defiled the land. The second problem is the profaning of God's holy name (verses 20-21). The exile was interpreted by other nations as a sign of Yahweh's weakness, damaging his reputation.
- **Question 3: How does God plan to resolve the problem of His profaned name?**
- God resolves this issue by ending Israel's exile and bringing them back to their homeland in a new exodus. This display of power will demonstrate His holiness and power to the other nations, proving that He is not a weak or minor god as they had assumed. He explicitly states that He is acting "for the sake of my holy name" (verse 22).
- **Question 4: How does God address the problem of Israel's inherent sinfulness to ensure the exile doesn't repeat itself?**
- God provides an "internal answer" to this problem. He promises to cleanse them from their uncleanness (verse 25) and give them a new heart and a new spirit (verses 26-27). This "new heart" involves removing their "heart of stone" and replacing it with a "heart of flesh," making them more sensitive to God's will and able to follow his commands. God even says he will put *His* spirit within them.

- **Question 5: What is the significance of the "clean water" mentioned in verse 25?**
- The "clean water" is a metaphor for forgiveness and the cleansing of past sins. This imagery is used to represent the wiping clean of Israel's slate, giving them a fresh start. It parallels similar uses of water for cleansing in other Old Testament passages, such as Numbers 19:13 and Psalm 51:7.
- **Question 6: How does this passage relate to the New Testament?**
- The passage has connections to key New Testament concepts. Ezekiel 36:23 ("I will sanctify my great name") is reflected in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9), where the petition "hallowed be your name" is made. Additionally, the concepts of cleansing and the new spirit (Ezekiel 36:25-26) are echoed in Jesus's discussion of being "born of water and spirit" in John 3.
- **Question 7: How is the land itself affected by Israel's renewal?**
- Israel's salvation extended to the land itself. God promises to renew the land's fertility (verses 29-30, 33-36). Famine will become a thing of the past, and the desolate places will be rebuilt and cultivated, transforming the land into something like the Garden of Eden. This renewal addresses the defilement of the land caused by Israel's sins (verse 18).
- **Question 8: Does Israel deserve this renewal, according to Ezekiel 36:16-38?**
- The passage emphasizes that Israel does not deserve this renewal. God makes it clear that He is not acting for their sake but for the sake of His own name (verse 22). He reminds them of their sinful past and their abominable deeds (verses 31-32), stressing that His grace is undeserved. They must remember and regret their evil ways, because forgetting their sin is dangerous to the possibility of future sin.