

# Resurrection

Ezekiel 36-37

Resurrection

Introduction

# Resurrection Introduction

- Normally we want things to keep moving along nicely.
- But often they don't.

# Resurrection Introduction

- Sometimes plans fail.
- Sometimes our dreams just die.
- And then people die – literally.
- And death is awful.

# Resurrection Introduction

- We serve a God who does not assure us that things will keep moving along nicely.
- But he does give us hope that things, ideas, dreams and people that die will rise again.

# Resurrection Introduction

- At a most tragic point in Israel's history, Ezekiel brought forth a promise.
- The nation would be restored.
- It would be like a nation coming back from the dead.

Restoration of the Land 36:1-15

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- The kingdom has now been destroyed.
- The people of Israel and Judah have been scattered.
- God speaks directly to the land, saying that the nation shall be restored on it.

## Restoration of the Land 36:1-15

- All the nations that rejoiced at the destruction of Israel shall be embarrassed for their gloating.
- The people of Israel behaved shamefully, but God has his own reasons for showing them mercy.

# The Vindication of God's Name 36:16-21

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*Picture the Israelite prisoners of war arriving ... eventually in Babylon ... Local people would ask each other, 'Who are these people?'*

*'Israelites from the land of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar has captured their city and deported the survivors.'*

*– Christopher J. H. Wright,  
in The Message of Ezekiel*



# The Vindication of God's Name 36:16-21

*'What's the name of their god, then?'*

*'Yahweh, or so I've heard.'*

*'So, they are Yahweh's people but they've been expelled from Yahweh's land! Yahweh is not much of a god, then, is he? No better than the gods of all the other nations our great king has conquered. Glory be to Marduk!'*

*– Christopher J. H. Wright,  
in The Message of Ezekiel*



# The Vindication of God's Name 36:16-21

- God's holy name has been profaned.
- Still, God will keep his covenant with the people who received his promises so long ago.

Restoration of the People 36:22-38

# Restoration of the People     36:22-38

- The restoration of the land
- The vindication of God's name
- The restoration of the people.
- These all go together in the fulfillment of God's word.

# Restoration of the People    36:22-38

*We cannot draw a clear line  
between the prophecies about  
restoration of the land and  
those about restoration of the  
people ...*

*– Dr. Tewoldemedhin Habtu,  
Ethiopian Bible Scholar*



# Restoration of the People 36:22-38

*... for the people are mentioned in the previous section and the land in the present section. This may be due to the fact that land and people are inseparable when it comes to Israel.*

*– Dr. Tewoldemedhin Habtu,  
Ethiopian Bible Scholar*



# Restoration of the People    36:22-38

- The restoration is not merely a new start.
- The regathering and restoration will be more like a nation rising from the dead.

# Restoration of the People    36:22-38

- God has explained what he is going to do and why.
- He will now illustrate it with a very expressive picture.

# The Valley of Dry Bones 37:1-14

# The Valley of Dry Bones     37:1-14

- On the heels of the Holocaust, Israel was reborn as a nation-state in May of 1948.
- Thousands of years before it happened, Ezekiel spoke these words to describe the process.
- The only part left is for the nation to receive God's Spirit.

# The Unity of the People 37:15-27

# The Unity of the People

37:15-27

*Ezekiel's point 'is not so much ethnic and geographical, but theological...He is determined to insist that the future of God's people is a future for one people. One God, one people, one covenant'.*

*– Dr. Tewoldemedhin Habtu,  
Ethiopian Bible Scholar*



# The Unity of the People

37:15-27

*In order for that oneness of God's people to materialize, the Jews will have to embrace the new covenant which has been effected once for all through the sacrifice of God's incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.*

*– Dr. Tewoldemedhin Habtu,  
Ethiopian Bible Scholar*



# The Unity of the People    37:15-27

- When God speaks of restoration or renewal he speaks in different categories than we do.
- He doesn't just paint an old house or fix an old car.
- He brings life from the dead.

Resurrection

# Resurrection

- God doesn't simply create life and let it live.
- Often, he allows it to die.
- Then he shows that he is the Author of Life, by renewing the very life that ceased living.

# Resurrection

- Without the fall of Adam, there would have been no need for redemption.
- Without the death of the nation of Israel, there would have been no need for restoration.

# Resurrection

- Without the crucifixion of Christ on Friday, there would have been no resurrection on Sunday morning.
- Without a fallen world that needed renewal, there would be no promise of a new heavens and a new earth.

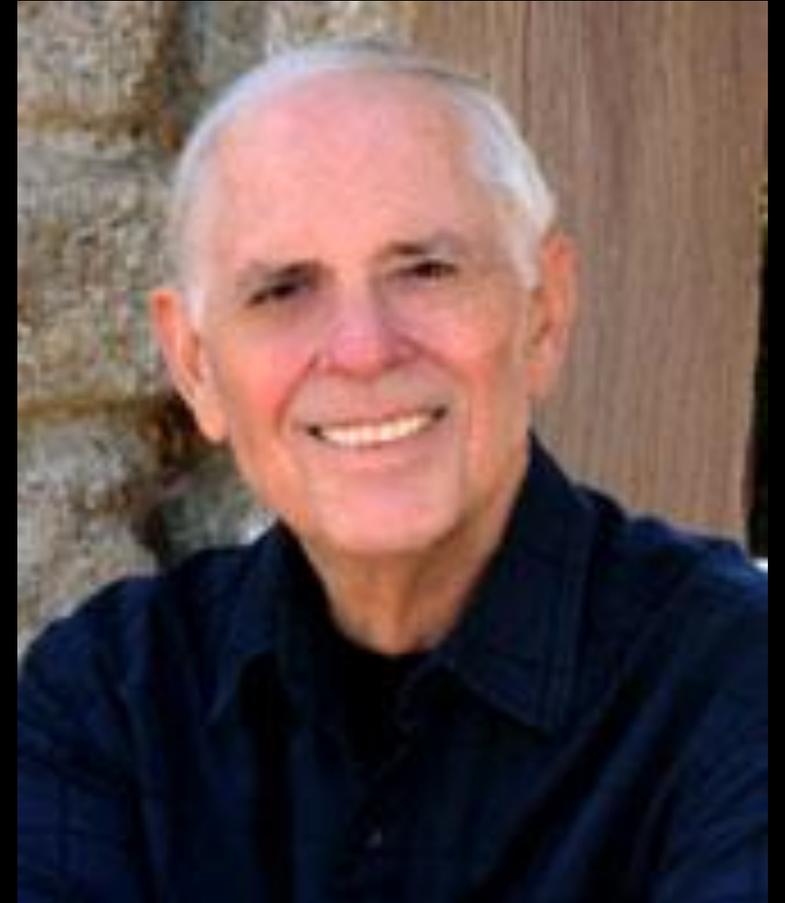
# Resurrection

- We might say that resurrection is one of the Bible's guiding principles.
- The resurrection of Christ is the basis for our faith.

# Resurrection

*That Christ is now alive remains the chief premise of Christian teaching. Lacking that premise, Christianity is easily turned into tedious moral obligations, pretentious sounding historical research, unsufferably vague speculative philosophy, or desperate self-help psychology.*

*– Thomas Oden, in Classic Christianity*



# Resurrection

- In other words, if we didn't serve a risen Lord, the whole idea of Christianity wouldn't make sense.
- Christ's resurrection is the basis for our hope.
- Our own resurrection forms a part of the hope that we have right now.

# Resurrection

- Right at this moment there may be hopes and dreams you have had that have simply died.
- And people – people who are now with Jesus.
- Take this idea of resurrection very seriously.

# Resurrection

- We serve a God who does not assure us that things will keep moving along nicely.
- But he does give us hope that things, ideas, dreams and people that die will rise again.

# Resurrection

- Let's close with the encouragement that Paul gave to the Corinthian church.
- **1 Corinthians 15:42-57**