

11/29/18

OT #43

THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL

GT

Ezekiel 18; 34; 37
add 1-37, 38, 39

Ezekiel is a priest who gets carried off in the first wave of Babylonian exile. 2 Kings 24:8-17. As such, he's a contemporary of Jeremiah, Lehi, and, later, Daniel.

5 years later, he is in Babylon turning 30, (the day he would have been installed as a priest in the temple).

Ch. 1/2 → theophany of Ezekiel ch. 2 → like the calling of Jeremiah - don't be afraid of them
The appearance of the likeness of the Glory of the Lord.

Glory = "Kavod" - heaviness, significance, reputation, praiseworthiness, status

God's glory is supposed to be over Ark of Covenant in Jerusalem

Ch. 3 - Ezekiel called as a watchman & God explains what that means → he explains it to Israel later in ch. 34
Ezekiel's sign acts

ch 4-5 Jerusalem siege in miniature
chopping off hair, cutting it up w/a sword
lying tied up on his side on the street for a year, eating food cooked over dung
5:10 Fathers eat sons, sons eat fathers

Bad News: no one's going to listen → predicted in Deut. 30 (Hard heart)

Ch. 8-11 Temple vision

temple has become a den of idolatry, God's glory departs for Babylon
"condescension"!

Israel's idolatry hasn't driven God away, he accompanies them into exile
a symbol of his determination to soften their hearts (the "new thing" of Isaiah 43:19, ch 48-53)

Ch 18 - people punished for their own sins - God has pleasure in souls repenting, not souls dying. No more need for "sour grapes" proverb
Ch 14 - land is unrighteous. Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, it's men who didn't live in Israel
they would only save themselves. Every one else will die from sword, famine, beast, pestilence

Ch. 11 key transition → a remnant will return
Ch 12-24 Judgment on Israel
Ch 25-32 on Nations
Ch 33 on Old Jerusalem

too late, even if the most righteous men of history pled for them
parables of wickedness, courtroom-style accusations

Egypt & Tyre have brought Babylon upon them thru pride
also Philistia, Ammon, Moab, Edom

eyewitness account of destruction of Jerusalem & temple

Ch 34-37 Hope for Israel

34 → I will be their shepherd
New David v. 24

36 → New Israel w/ new heart through God's spirit v. 25-27

37 → Valley of Dry Bones
- Israel's faithfulness is so dead, only a miracle could bring it back - then we see a miracle → "new" creation → recalls Gen. ch 2

Ch 38-39 Hope for the Nations
Gog & Magog
God defeats evil among the Nations

Same imagery to describe Gog → that used for Egypt & Tyre
→ wind = spirit
violent death of evil

Ch 40-48 Hope for All Creation
Through New Jerusalem (w/o being named)
- vision of New Temple complex
- shechinah returns
- river of life flows from temple

Ezekiel

14:4

... Idols in his heart... I will answer him according to the multitude of his idols

14:14

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, Job were in it [the land of Israel], they would only save themselves through their righteousness.

ch 3 → 33

Ezekiel warned in ch. 3 the consequences of being a lazy

watchman

33:12 wicked is saved ~~the~~ day he repents. The righteous is lost when he turns to sin

33:16 his wickedness shall not be mentioned any more to him

33:21 Ezekiel receives news of the destruction of Jerusalem