

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Give Hope for the Future

Ezekiel

INTRODUCTION: Welcome! New ones. Welcome back!

Still glad to have those worshipping online with us.

Moving Forward! Tonight – Graduate Recognition Fellowship for family and friends of our graduates. – Focus on safety!

Reports on Karen and Mark

Last week, I ran out of time before I shared the last way God demonstrated His faithfulness to Ezekiel, and frankly, it was so neat, that I felt a little bummed that I didn't get to tell you about it.

As I prayed about who to use as the object of God's faithfulness today, the Lord kept bringing my mind back to Ezekiel, like God was saying, "Why don't you finish what I did with him?" So that's what I'm going to do.

So let me just remind you, in order for us to have the biblical context, how God showed His faithfulness to Ezekiel, this priest and prophet who went into exile in Babylon along with 10,000 of his fellow citizens.

While Ezekiel ministered among the captives on the outskirts of Babylon along the river Chebar,

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO SHOW EZEKIEL THAT THE LORD REMAINED UPON HIS THRONE!

Ezekiel 1:26–28 NKJV ...above the heavens ... was the likeness of a throne, and... a man high above it ... with fire with brightness all around. ... This was ... the glory of the Lord.

God was showing Ezekiel and He is showing us **God is in control, and God is faithful to take care of His people!**

GOD GAVE HIS WORDS TO EZEKIEL AND MADE HIM A WATCHMAN ON THE WALL FOR THE PEOPLE TO WARN THEM.

Like Ezekiel, we too are watchmen on the wall! Are you warning people? There is something coming that is far more life-threatening than COVID. Over 3,000 times more. CV – 600K/7.8B = 1/13,000.

And then, what I didn't get to show you was that Jesus warned us in Matt. 25 and Rev. 6.

Folks, we have something to warn people about, but we also have something to give people hope for the future!

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE EZEKIEL HOPE THROUGH A GLIMPSE OF THE END TIMES.

- **GOD WILL RENEW ISRAEL AND MAKE IT LIKE THE GARDEN OF EDEN.**

Ezekiel 36 NKJV 2 Thus says the Lord God: "Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,' " 3 therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people"—

24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

33 'Thus says the Lord God: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. 34 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

35 So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden;'

- **GOD WILL BECOME ISRAEL'S PROTECTOR WHEN MANY NATIONS ATTACK HER.**

Ezekiel told the people that one day Russia will come out of the north, joined by Arab allies to plunder the wealth and prosperity of Israel.

But when that happens, Ezekiel proclaimed,

Ezekiel 39:1–4 NKJV ..., 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; ...

4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

God Himself will fight for His people.

And you may be thinking, well that's great if you are a Jew, and especially if you live in Israel.

But the Holy Spirit said through Paul

Romans 8:31 NKJV What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

- **GOD SHOWED EZEKIEL A GLORIOUS WORK THAT WILL BE DONE DURING THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST.**

Ezekiel 47:1–12 NKJV Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east;

the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, ...3 And ... the water came up to my ankles.

4 Again he measured ...; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured ...; the water came up to my waist.

5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.

6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

Do you know what the river is? This is the Holy Spirit. Scripture explains Scripture!

Jesus said, "John 7:38–39 NKJV He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; ..."

And look at what happens! Watch the healing power of the Spirit in action!

7 When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other.

8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea.

The sea east of Jerusalem is the Dead Sea. Now watch this, as the Holy Spirit flows to the Dead Sea.

When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. Why is the Dead Sea called the Dead Sea? Nothing lives in it except microbes.

9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

10 It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. ...

Did you hear that all you fishermen? Here we are in the Millennial Kingdom, and there's all kinds of fish and fishermen!

12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine." Rev. 22

CONCLUSION: My friend, this is not just a promise for those of Israel who trust in Christ.

It is for all of us who trust in Christ!

When Israel gets saved we who have trusted Christ now will already be in our resurrection bodies, ruling and reigning with Christ.

We shall be there!

No matter what happens on earth now or later...

This is our future!

This is our certain hope!

This is what is coming for all of us who are a part of the people of God through faith in Jesus.

Is this your hope? It can be!

As a believer, God has made us watchmen. Have you warned your loved ones and friends about what is coming, and how they can be on the eternally glorious side of that?