



## THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING RENEWAL & RESTORATION



“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart and will put a new spirit in you. I will take your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”

Ezekiel 36:25-27 NLT

Prophet Ezekiel received God’s word in times of spiritual darkness and moral decadence in the land of Israel. It was the Babylonian captivity when the kingdom of Judah was taken into exile because of their rebellion against God. Ezekiel could understand God’s revelation about the power of the Holy Spirit cleansing the sinful impurity of Judah’s inhabitants. Prophet Ezekiel lived among the exiles in Babylon when the Jews were deported by king Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. It happened after ten year later when Nebuchadnezzar invaded and destroyed the entire city of Jerusalem, and he burnt the Temple to ashes in 587 B.C. New more captives from Judah’s kingdom joined Ezekiel and the other exiles already living in Babylon. They thought it was the end for them. Yet, God was not their enemy as the prophet announced through many visions and prophecies.

Was it really the end for the nation of Israel? Could there be any hope for its future?

☒ Political and Spiritual Restoration of Judah: God's promise to his chosen people.

God spoke to Ezekiel the message of restoration as we read in Ezekiel 36:22-24, "Therefore give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign LORD, then the nations will know that I am the LORD. For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land."

Ezekiel proclaimed the message God spoke to him not just to bring hope to Israel about their physical restoration only, but to their spiritual restoration God will bring through the power of the Holy Spirit. Yes, Israel will recover their small territory around Jerusalem.

Yet, Ezekiel saw beyond a political restoration of Judah as a nation. They needed not just political freedom and geographical relocation. All of them needed a radical and total heart transplant. In fact, they will receive a new heart through spiritual resurrection and renewal. Ezekiel proclaimed God's word about

the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the people of Israel. It will be the very power of the Holy Spirit working spiritual renewal and restoration of God's chosen people.

☒ The Cleansing power of the Holy Spirit transforming lives today.

The Holy Spirit brings new life to God's chosen people like clean water washing away all kind of uncleanness. God's grace and mercy are manifested by the cleansing of all our sins. His Spirit comes to work within us transforming our hearts through spiritual purification. Our God pours out his Holy Spirit on us, first by cleansing our filth with the power of clean water. The Spirit washes away our sins and creates a new heart within us.

Second, the Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts making us more sensitive to God's voice and presence. The Holy Spirit power removes our stony stubborn heart and creates a new tender and responsive heart.

God will put his Spirit within you and make you a new creation with new life and nature. He will give us his Holy Spirit so we may be able to walk in God's commandments in radical obedience to his Word. This is God's promise for you and me. In the Old Testament we find the Holy Spirit working spiritual renewal and restoration. We need to see the Holy Spirit working a new life and making a new heart within us today.