

## The Book of Ezekiel

# 10

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we continue our study of the book of **Ezekiel**, this time reading **chapters 36-48**. In this last section of **Ezekiel**, the Lord reveals to the prophet what is to come. These prophecies focus on three themes:

- **Chapters 36-37** – The restoration of Israel
- **Chapters 38-39** – The destruction of future armies invading Israel
- **Chapters 40-48** – The vision of a new temple

There are different schools of thought on how these prophecies have been or will be fulfilled. Here is one possibility:

### ***The restoration of Israel***

**Chapters 36-37** foretell the gathering of Israel back to its land. But there have been two times when Israel has been dispersed and returned to its land. The first time was after the Babylonian exile, and the second time was in our lifetime, with the recreation of the State of Israel. Which is being referring to in **chapters 36-37**? Probably both. Like with many prophecies in Scripture, there is a twin fulfillment.

### ***The restoration of Israel***

**Chapters 38-39** foretell an invasion of Israel by northern and eastern armies (called "Magog" and its allies). God sovereignly protects Israel and destroys the invading hordes. This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled, and so speaks of a future event (see also **Revelation 20:8**).

### ***The vision of the temple***

**Chapters 40-48** describe in great detail a vision Ezekiel sees of a future temple. No temple resembling Ezekiel's description has ever been constructed. This means that it will either be physically constructed in the future, or it is symbolic of the true spiritual temple, the Church (note **1 Corinthians 3:16**; **2 Corinthians 6:16**).

Let's now read the last section of **Ezekiel** – **chapters 36-48**.

# Memory Verse

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind  
our sins sweep us away.

Isaiah 64:6

## Your Fishing Kit

This is the tenth passage in your fishing kit. **Isaiah 59:1-2** expands on and describes in more detail how sin totally separates us from a holy God. There is nothing we can do in ourselves to right this condition, for it is not just our *sins* that are like filthy rags, but even our *righteous acts*! Our righteousness falls so far short of God's holy standard that we are like one who is "unclean" (**Mark 7:20-23**) – a term used in the Old Testament for someone who was spiritually contaminated. In fact, lepers would call out, "Unclean! Unclean!" – not just because they were physically unclean, but also because they were spiritually unclean (note **Leviticus 13:2-3; Luke 5:12-13**). Our condition outside of Christ is exactly like this. We are like lepers, contaminated spiritually, unclean before God.

Here are the other verses in your "fishing kit":

<b>John 3:16</b>	<b>Proverbs 14:12</b>	<b>John 1:12</b>	<b>Matthew 10:32-33</b>
<b>John 3:18</b>	<b>Romans 5:8</b>	<b>John 3:3</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 10:13</b>
<b>John 3:36</b>	<b>1 John 4:10</b>	<b>John 5:24</b>	<b>1 John 5:10</b>
<b>Ephesians 1:7-8</b>	<b>Acts 2:38</b>	<b>John 6:37</b>	<b>1 John 5:11</b>
<b>Romans 3:23</b>	<b>Acts 3:19</b>	<b>John 10:10</b>	<b>1 John 5:12</b>
<b>Romans 6:23</b>	<b>Acts 4:12</b>	<b>John 10:28</b>	<b>Romans 2:4-5</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:5</b>	<b>John 14:6</b>	<b>Romans 10:9</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:8</b>	<b>Romans 10:13</b>	<b>John 14:1-3</b>
<b>Isaiah 59:1-2</b>	<b>1 John 1:9</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:17</b>	<b>John 16:33</b>
<b>Isaiah 64:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:10</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:21</b>	<b>Revelation 3:20</b>

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an "on the tip of your tongue" familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.