

Jesus and Nicodemus (Pt. 5)

Ezekiel 36-37

Old Testament allusions in Jesus's discussion with Nico.

- Verily, Verily/Amen, Amen: First 3 Books of the Psalms
 —Davidic Covenant.
- 2. Born concept—Jn. 1:12-13; explicit in Is. 66:8-9; implicit in Ezek. 36-37—New Covenant; at Exodus Israel was God's firstborn in Ex. 4:22-23; Deut. 32:6, 18.
- 3. Water and Spirit—explicity in Ezek. 36:25-27; Ex. 14:21; 15:10.
- 4. The wind/S/spirit blowing—Ezek. 37:1-14; Ex. 14:21; 15:10.
- 5. Moses lifting up the serpent—Deut. 21:9.
- 6. God giving and sending with birth imagery—Is. 9:6.
- 7. Salvation of world through restored Israel—<u>Abrahamic</u> Covenant.
- 8. Passover/Night—Ex. 12:29-31, 42.

- 1. Jesus's encounter with Nico in the light of Ezekiel:
 - a. Ezek. 36:1-15: When Israel went into captivity the nation died and was "buried" (figuratively) in Gentile graves (Ezek. 33). The country was a wasteland, the cities were forsaken and deserted and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and the people carried off (33:21; 36:4).
 - --For God to fulfill His Prophetic Program, the nation would have to be "born again."
 - --Israel needed to be brought back to life and established in its long-prophesied Kingdom of peace and prosperity (Jn. 3:3-4—this birth involved a new work of God that would provide a new beginning unlike her previous beginnings (36:11), a 2nd Exodus, a **New Birth** was required to see the Kingdom).

- b. Ezek. 36:16-23: Israel's captivity profaned the Name of the LORD (36:21-23). The "born again" Nation of Israel would resanctify and bring honor to His Name first in Israel and through Israel the whole world. They were in exile because\ they rejected the grace resident in God's Jehovah Name, profaning His Name, which also caused the Gentiles to profane His Name—their gods were greater than Israel's God!
 - --In order for the God's Name to be sanctified among the Gentile nations, it must first be sanctified by Israel (Josh. 2:9-13. 4:23-24)—thus John's emphasis on believing in His Name (Jn. 1:12; 2:23; 20:31).
 - --Restoration (salvation) of the world begins with restoration (salvation) of Israel! Come on Nico! The whole world is waiting and ready but Israel refuses (Jn. 3:16).

- c. Ezek. 36:24-38: The regathering of the people. This birth involved water and S/spirit—Israel's national cleansing program (36:25-27; born of water and Spirit).
 - --36:24: Sprinkle with water to cleanse from Israel's <u>national</u> defilement.
 - --36:26-27: Give a new S/spirit for Israel's national restoration —provides the nation with obedience to the Law that comes from a heart of faith so they can finally receive the blessings of the Law rather than its curses, re-birthing the nation under the blessings of the Law rather than its curses.
 - --These are typified by JohnB's baptism in the Gospels and Peter's water and Christ's Spirit baptism in early Acts as foretastes of what the LORD will do with the whole nation at Christ's 2nd Coming.

- 2. Ezek. 37: National Restoration: To accomplish this, God will send a wind out to blow over the Nation of Israel's dead bones, raising them up from the dead, calling them out of their graves in the world of the Gentiles, re-gathering, re-uniting and restoring them to their land under the rulership of their own King, the Lord Jesus Christ, who makes them into His Own nation above all other nations (37:1-14; Jn. 3:8).
 - -- The sound of the wind = the voice of the Spirit.
 - --Jesus (who received the Spirit at His baptism and it remained with Him) brings the voice of the Spirit but Israel didn't hear. They didn't know where Jesus came from (Jn. 8:14, 9:29-30), or where He was going (8:14, 22)

Jn. 1:12 Jn. 2:23

Unbelieving Israelites/Not Children of God

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS Believing Remnant/ Children of God

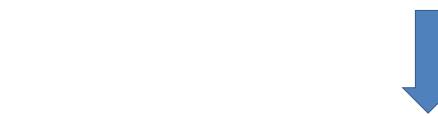


Can enter the King's Kingdom through Israel's cleansing program and participate in national restoration.



Can NOT see or enter the Kingdom

Can see the King and the Kingdom



To be God's conduit of salvation to the whole world

3. Come on Nico! What Ezekiel 36-37 prophesied about, I have come to do!! You and your Pharisee cohorts need to get with the program! Then convert the rest of all the religious leaders, who will then convert all Jerusalem, who will then convert all Judea and Galilee, who will convert all Samaria so that then My Name sanctified by all Israel and the nation re-born and restored so that finally my Name can sanctified by the Gentiles, thereby saving the whole world!!!

4. We see a foretaste of how all this works in Acts 1-5.