EZEKIEL 36

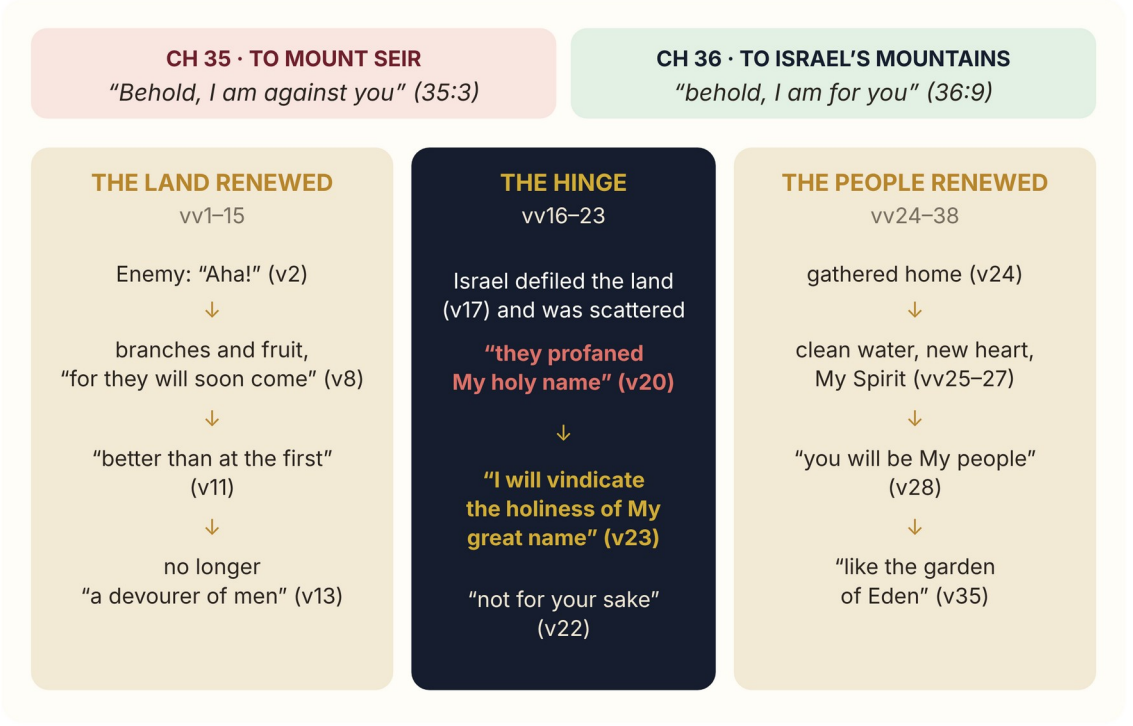
A New Heart for His Name’s Sake

> *“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”*
> EZEKIEL 36:26

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Jerusalem lies in ruins (33:21), and Edom has claimed the empty land for itself (ch 35).

2. The chapter has two halves — the renewal of the land (vv1–15) and the renewal of the people (vv16–38).



O Mountains of Israel, Hear!

The enemy's taunt answered and the land revived

EZEKIEL 36:1

"And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notes the focus here is on the land itself, not only the people. The enemy, especially Edom (v5), had claimed it with glee and contempt, and God answers in the fire of His jealousy.

WHAT IT MEANS

The enemy said, "Aha!" and "The everlasting heights have become our possession" (v2). God answers to the mountains, hills, ravines and valleys themselves.

jealousy (קִנְאָה)
QIN'AH · "ZEAL, JEALOUSY"

Qin'ah is zeal, ardor, jealousy for what belongs to one. In chapter 35 the same word described Edom's envy (35:11).

Why They Were Scattered

Israel defiled the land and profaned God's name among the nations

EZEKIEL 36:18

"Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols.

DAVID GUZIK

Feinberg, in Guzik, says the 'blood' of verse 18 likely means murder, judicial violence and child sacrifice.

WHAT IT MEANS

When Israel lived in the land, "they defiled it by their ways and their deeds" (v17).

profaned (חָלַל)
CHALAL · "TO PROFANE"

Chalal means to defile, pollute, treat as common. It appears again and again in verses 20–23: Israel "profaned My holy name" (v20).

For My Holy Name's Sake

God acts not because Israel deserves it but for His name

EZEKIEL 36:22

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik says the restoration is 'not only for the sake of Israel but even more so for His holy name.'

WHAT IT MEANS

This is the hinge of the chapter. God says plainly, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name" (v22).

vindicate the holiness (קָדַשׁ)
QADASH · "SHOW ONESELF HOLY"

Qadash means to sanctify, to show oneself holy. In verse 23 God says, "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations."

Clean Water, a New Heart, My Spirit

Gather, cleanse, renew — the new covenant by another name

EZEKIEL 36:24

"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik does not call the clean water baptism; he sees a true cleansing accomplished by Christ's death, and he calls John 3:5 — 'born of water and the Spirit' — 'the likely connection Jesus had in mind.'

WHAT IT MEANS

God's order is gather, cleanse, renew. "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean" (v25).

heart (לֵב)

LEB · "THE INNER MAN"

Leb is the inner man — mind, will, heart. God promises a chadash (H2319), new, fresh, heart, and to remove the heart of 'eben (H68), stone.

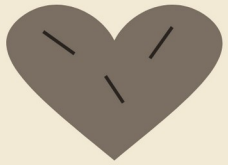
God's Order: Gather, Cleanse, Renew

SIX STEPS, ALL GOD'S DOING

1. **GATHER**
   "gather you from all the lands" (v24)
2. **CLEANSE**
   "I will sprinkle clean water on you" (v25)
3. **NEW HEART**
   "I will give you a new heart" (v26)
4. **MY SPIRIT**
   "I will put My Spirit within you" (v27)
5. **BELONG**
   "you will be My people" (v28)
6. **RESTORE**
   "like the garden of Eden" (v35)

THE HEART TRANSPLANT

v26



"the heart of stone"
removed



"a heart of flesh"
given

Every step in 36:24–35 is God's "I will," and at the center He trades a heart of stone for a heart of flesh.

Like the Garden of Eden

Remembering, loathing old ways, and asking God for what He promised

EZEKIEL 36:37

'Thus says the Lord GOD, "This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

DAVID GUZIK

Wiersbe, in Guzik, says true believers are 'ashamed of themselves' over past disobedience; grace does not make sin trivial.

WHAT IT MEANS

God will save His people from all their uncleanness and end the disgrace of famine (vv29–30). Then "you will remember your evil ways" and "loathe yourselves in your own sight" (v31).

ask (דָּרַשׁ)

DARASH · "SEEK, INQUIRE OF"

Darash means to seek, inquire of, ask. In verse 37 God says, "This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them."

What to carry from this chapter

1

For, not against.

Chapter 35 says to Mount Seir, “I am against you”; chapter 36 says to Israel’s mountains, “I am for you” (v9).

2

Jealousy is hot.

Trapp, in Guzik: ‘Jealousy is hot as hell’ — God’s zeal for His land and people, not petty envy.

3

To profane is to make common.

Chalal means treating the Holy One as ordinary; Israel did it simply by how they lived among the nations (v20).

4

Not for your sake.

God acts for His holy name (v22), which means a sinner’s hope rests on God’s character, not his record.

More to carry

5

Inside out.

Guzik says the new heart changes a man from the inside out, not from the outside in.

6

Born of water and the Spirit.

Guzik calls John 3:5 the likely connection Jesus had in mind with the clean water and new spirit of vv25–27.

7

Idols are dung.

Gillulim, Ezekiel's favorite word for idols, is related to a word for dung — his term of contempt.

8

Promises are meant to be prayed.

God promised to increase His people and then said He would let them ask Him to do it (v37).

Talk it through

1. How does God’s jealousy differ from Edom’s envy, though the same Hebrew word describes both?

2. In what ways can a man’s life profane God’s name in front of the people around him?

3. Why is it good news that God acts “not for your sake” but for His name?

4. Where do you still feel a heart of stone, and what would a heart of flesh change?

5. What promise of God do you need to bring back to Him by name this week?

CLOSING

God washes the unclean, takes out the heart of stone, puts His own Spirit within, and turns wastelands into Eden. He does it for His holy name — and that is why no man is too far gone. He has spoken, and He will do it.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides and reflection journal: see the Ezekiel study page.