

# BE READY: GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

JULY 4, 2021

## WORSHIP

Prepare the Way, Grace  
So Glorious, Revelation  
Song, Be Ready

## WELCOME

What are your favorite  
promises or prophecies  
of God in the Bible?

## WORD

### DEUTERONOMY 7:9

<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

(READ EZEKIEL 36-39  
AHEAD OF TIME)

ENDGAME means the ultimate outcome or final result. For example: the last quarter, last few minutes, and even last few seconds of a basketball game can change everything and bring unexpected victory or defeat to a playing team. In this world full of uncertainties, it is so crucial that we understand that the endgame is based on God's perspective.

Our focus for this message is on ISRAEL and the END TIMES. Remember, we study Bible prophecies to grow in our faith. The object of our faith is not feelings or circumstances, but none other than God and His Word. These prophecies help validate the truthfulness, reliability, and accuracy of God's Word. They validate the very character of God. **Deuteronomy 7:9** reminds us of God's faithfulness in keeping His covenant. Let's look at the book of Ezekiel; written within the timeline of Daniel and Jeremiah. Ezekiel was a priest and among the Jewish captives in Babylon. He became a prophet because God told him to comfort His people and relay the coming judgment to them (**Ezekiel 3:1-10**). Ezekiel prophesied about the ultimate fall of Jerusalem, and even the fall of the neighboring countries. He also prophesied about the future of ISRAEL. The study of this nation is so central because it is the showcase of how faithful God is. It gives evidence of God's amazing work and how prophecies are being fulfilled. The book of Ezekiel constantly repeats the statement "**thus says the LORD**" – 126 times and repeated 64 times with the following phrase "**then you will know I am the LORD**". Remember, when these promises were given, it was a hopeless situation when it came to the Jews. They were captives of Babylon, and it seemed like there's no way these can be fulfilled. Prophecies can take time, and just because we don't see it happening yet, doesn't mean we should give up hope. What promises can we see in the highlighted chapters (**36-39**)?

### 1. PROMISE OF RESTORATION (36)

**Ezekiel 36:5** has God expressing His anger when other people take the Promise Land for themselves. Remember, in **Genesis 15:18**, God promised a huge territory to Abram (Abraham) – from the river of Egypt to the river Euphrates. The original land area is around 300,000 square miles. But the UN's decision to grant a land area for the Jews (Israel today) is only around 8,000 square miles, almost the size of **Luzon's REGION 3**. You can drive through the entire country of Israel from North to South in **less than 9 hours**, and from East to West in **1 and ½ hours**. **God promised to restore the land (v.9)**. **Ezekiel 36:22-24** says that God will do this not just for the people, but more importantly, for His Holy Name. His people have profaned His Name, because despite being chosen as a holy nation, commanded to obey God and influence others, they began to be greedy, immoral, and became very bad examples to other people.

**Ezekiel 36:34-36** tells us that the land will be cultivated – from being desolate to being fortified and inhabited. In **Isaiah 27:6**, like Ezekiel, it was prophesied that the land will be productive again. In 1867, Mark Twain wrote about how desolate the nation of Israel looked—it was barren! We see the fulfillment of this promise even today: Israel is now the fruit capital of the world, especially of Europe. They are also gifted with innovations for agriculture such as the drip technology for watering plants. We see this promise being fulfilled right before our eyes!

### 2. PROMISE OF RE-ESTABLISHMENT (37)

The re-establishment of ISRAEL as a nation is humanly impossible. For 2500 years, there was no country called Israel.

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## WORD

When Judah fell in 586 BC, the Babylonian Empire took over and the Jewish nation ceased to exist. No land, no army, no language, no flag. Ezekiel gave a prophecy in **Ezekiel 37:1-6** of a valley full of bones (Israel) that God brought back to life. When God says something, He will do it – God keeps His word! The land was completely devastated, and their hope was cut off. **Ezekiel 37:21-22** is very significant because not only will God bring back Jews to the land, but they will have a king. **Ezekiel 37:24** prophesied a coming King (Jesus) and there will be one nation only. Israel was divided into two kingdoms. In **930 BC**, after Solomon's reign, the nation was split – Judah (southern kingdom) headed by Rehoboam son of Solomon, and Israel (the ten tribes, northern kingdom) headed by Jeroboam. The Northern Kingdom fell in **722 BC** into the hands of Assyria. The Southern Kingdom fell in **586 BC** into the hands of Babylon. In the end times, God is going to bring back the two nations together, and you see that happening today. History is witness to this, from the Belfour Declaration in 1917, though at that time, the Jews were living comfortably in foreign countries and were not interested to go back to Israel. The Holocaust (World War 2) where 6 million Jews were slaughtered made the Jews realize that they needed a homeland, and so they went back to the Promise Land. On **May 14, 1948**, David Ben-Gurion declared the State of Israel as an independent country! If something impossible like that can happen, how much more should our faith and confidence be in God? Keep trusting God because His promise is sure to come!

### 3. PROMISE OF PROTECTION (38)

After the declaration of Ben-Gurion, the neighboring Arab nations all surrounded the nation of Israel to eliminate the Jewish people. Israel had no tanks, no heavy artillery, and had scarcity of armies. Various wars with the Arab nations took place (Arab-Israel War of 1948, Six-Day War of 1967, Yom Kippur War of 1973) – but Israel had always prevailed. At a certain point, this newly established country even took over **Golan Heights, Jerusalem, and the Sinai Peninsula!**

**Ezekiel 38:1-6** tells us there will be a confederation of nations (7 countries) that will form an alliance to attack Israel. Magog is what Josephus described as the Scythians; the area mentioned are modern-day Russia, Germany, Libya, Syria, Turkey, and Iran. In the coming years, watch what happens with Israel and the surrounding nations. **Ezekiel 38:10-12** tells us that the surrounding nations will try to capture spoil and plunder Israel. In recent news, Israel has discovered a 16 trillion-cubit feet of oil reserve, and this is an amazing supply of energy! Neighboring countries may be interested in this as well, and may cause greater conflict. We will see God's word fulfilled, because God will protect Israel even in future events, He will intervene supernaturally.

### 4. PROMISE OF TRIUMPH (39)

**Ezekiel 39:3-8** has God speaking to the enemies of Israel. He will keep His Word, and will bring complete victory for Israel and for His Name. **Ezekiel 39:27-29** gives the ultimate prophecy where Israel will be evangelized, and will triumph over all her enemies. This is further expressed in **Zechariah 12:9-10**, an amazing victory to be led by none other than JESUS. God's grace will operate on the hearts of the Jewish people. When this endgame unravels, which side will we be on? There are two sides: God's side, and the world's side. Are we on the right side of history? May we be found faithful, holding on to God and His Word, living lives uncompromised until we see the final victory right before our very eyes!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

### 1. Self-Check.

How will you respond when people say that Bible prophecies are fulfilled only by chance?

### 2. Setting It Right

From our study today, how is God shown as faithful in spite of tragedies in the world?

### 3. Living It Out

How will you use God's promises to reach out to your family and friends?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people you know and around the world whose lives have been upended by tragedy or trials, that their suffering may lead them to Jesus, our Coming King. Care for others around you by letting them know of God's promises. Share with boldness the gospel of our salvation to those around you!

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

## Deuteronomy 7:9