

# The Prophets & Kings

## From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

### Book 1

#### A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 71

## “Handling the Truth”

**Study:** Ezekiel 33:1-20

**Reading:** Ezekiel 3:16-21, John 5:19-29

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

In the 1992 film, “A Few Good Men” there is a famous line that has been repeated thousands of times in numerous contexts. This line took place in a court scene where Lieutenant Kaffee, played by Tom Cruise, was pressing for answers on a subject. He sternly told Colonel Jessup, played by Jack Nicholson, “I want the truth!” To which Jessup replied, “You can’t handle the truth!” It is one of those movie quotes that stuck and is used on a regular basis in many different ways.

Today, we are going to see that one of the main struggles that the people of Israel faced which led to their destruction and hindered their restoration was the fact that they did not want to face the truth about their sins. They did not want to admit that they offended their God.

### What Does the Bible Say?

When Ezekiel was beginning his ministry, God told him that he was being appointed as a watchman for Israel (Ezekiel 3). God used the same comparison many years later as Ezekiel was once again told that he was a watchman for Israel. The job of a watchman was to stand on top of the city walls and warn the city of any impending danger. Once he saw danger, his responsibility was to blow the trumpet to warn the people. If he failed to do his duty, the blood of the people would be on his hands. If the people of the city heard the sound of the trumpet, but failed to listen, they would be responsible for their own demise (vs 1-6).

Ezekiel was that watchman who God had called to issue a warning to Israel. His responsibility was to declare to the people the words of God. This meant that the message would be difficult at times, but it was Ezekiel’s responsibility to deliver it. By sharing what God said, Ezekiel would be delivering himself from any judgment that God would bring to His watchman who failed to warn His people (vs 7-9).

God had a vital message for Ezekiel to share with those who were in captivity. They were beginning to realize that all of the destruction and pain that had come upon them was a result of their sin. They wanted to

know how they would be able to survive as a nation. God stated that He found no pleasure in hurting His children. In order to survive and find abundant life, the children of Israel needed to turn back to God. Ezekiel was to make it clear that the past was in the past and the choices they made in the present would affect their future. They could not rely on their past righteousness, nor could they fret over their past evils. If they chose to follow God and do what He commanded, they could expect God's blessings ahead, but if they chose the opposite, God would have no choice but to continue to bring harm to them (vs 10-16).

One of the great problems that the people of Israel faced was that they failed to see where they were wrong. They thought they were doing the right thing and couldn't come to grips with the reality that they had strayed from God. They were upset at God for not treating them fairly, but it was they who had chosen their wicked paths. God was being just by delivering punishment, though the people claimed He was unjust for the actions He had taken (vs 17-20).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you willing to listen to the truth? God let Ezekiel know that the truth needed to be told whether the people wanted it or not. It was up to the children of Israel to listen or reject the truth, and they continually chose to reject it. They blamed God for their problems rather than their own sinfulness. This is a very common reaction for all humans because it is much easier to blame God than to confront ourselves with the reality of who we are. Your personal spiritual growth depends on your willingness to humble yourself and listen to the truth. Regardless if you have listened or failed to listen in the past, today is a new day. You can't control your past, but you can start to listen and obey today.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for sharing His truth with you.*
- \* *Ask God to help you be willing to humble yourself to listen to Him.*
- \* *Praise God because He is the source of all truth.*

## **Thought for the day**

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What was a watchman (vs 2)?

What was the responsibility of a watchman (vs 3)?

What was the responsibility of the people (vs 4)?

Why was it important that the people of the city listened to the watchman (vs 5)?

Why was the role of a watchman so important (vs 6)?

What was Ezekiel called by God to be (vs 7)?

Why was Ezekiel compared to a watchman (vs 7)?

What tough message did Ezekiel have to declare (vs 8)?

What was Ezekiel not responsible for (vs 9)?

What question were the Israelites wondering (vs 10)?

What did God not have pleasure in (vs 11)?

What did God tell Israel about their past (vs 12)?

What can't you trust in (vs 13)? Why not?

Why shouldn't you live in past regrets (vs 14-16)?

What did the people say (vs 17)? Why?

How could a wicked man find life (vs 18)?

Why was continuing in righteousness so important (vs 19)?

How was God going to judge each man (vs 20)?

What do you think God is wanting you to learn from this passage?

# “Entertainment Value”

**Study:** Ezekiel 33:21-33

**Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

**W**hen I pastored in Wisconsin, we had a musical group come to our area for a concert. Due to a snowstorm, they had to stay an extra day and I asked them if they would perform a concert during our normal Sunday school time. News traveled around about the performance and we had about three times as many people show up for Sunday school that morning. While I thought it was nice that the concert was so well attended, I also was somewhat disturbed by the extra attendance. It seemed that people were willing to get up early and come to be entertained, but not willing to get up to come and learn from the Word of God.

Today, we are going to read how the children of Israel had a great desire to hear Ezekiel for entertainment value, but did not want to listen to His words.

## What Does the Bible Say?

The city of Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians around July of 586 B.C. About 6 months later, January of 585 B.C. the report of the destruction reached Ezekiel in captivity. The night before the reporting fugitive arrived, God had visited Ezekiel, causing him to be able to speak. According to Ezekiel 3:26-27 God had closed the mouth of Ezekiel and he was only allowed to speak the direct words from God. It appears that the only thing Ezekiel had spoken over the last seven years were messages from God. Now that the news about the destruction was about to reach that captives, he was no longer hindered in his speech (vs 21-22).

The message starting in verse 23 was given for those Israelites who had survived the Babylonian invasion and remained in the land. Apparently some of them had been declaring that they had a right to live in the land, just as Abraham was given the right. They believed they had more of a right to the lands since there were many of them compared to only one Abraham. Though they thought the Babylonian captivity should come to a quick end and they would prosper once again, God reminded

them that they were still committing the same sins that brought destruction to the land. God questioned how they thought the land should still be given to them even though it was taken away for the very sins they continued committing (vs 23-26).

If those living in the land did not turn from their sins, they would not be given the land, but instead they would die. No matter where they tried to hide to avoid this death, God was going to carry out His word and they would not survive because they continued in their sins. Once again, God declared that He would do this so that they would recognize that He was the Lord (vs 27-29).

The next message was directed towards those who lived in captivity with Ezekiel. They would talk about the things that Ezekiel said and would go to listen to him, but they really did not believe his words. They would give ear service to Ezekiel and acted as if they were listening, but they wouldn't carry out any of the things that Ezekiel instructed them to do. They only cared about their personal gain and not what God desired for them (vs 30-31).

As Ezekiel spoke, the people would gather around and pretend to be listening to what God had to say, but they were only listening for their own personal entertainment. Ezekiel's words were compared to a singer performing for a crowd as they found themselves entertained by his words and actions. Yet, when his words came true and the people faced the consequences of their actions, it would be clear that Ezekiel was speaking for God (vs 32-33).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you approach a church service for the entertainment value or because you want to hear from God and change your life? Many churches have gifted singers and musicians and they can be very entertaining. Many pastors are great speakers and have the ability to thrill the crowds of people that come to hear them. Though having great musicians or a gifted speaker is a great bonus when you attend a church service, you have to remember you are not going to church to be entertained. The people loved to hear Ezekiel speak. Many times, God had called him to act out some very odd things and the people were always curious about what Ezekiel was going to do next. Sadly, all they wanted from Ezekiel was entertainment and they didn't want to listen to God's truth and obey. Make it your desire as you attend church services to have an open mind to hear from God and a willingness to obey what He tells you to do.

When did the fugitive come from Jerusalem (vs 21)?

What did he declare (vs 21)?

What did God do for Ezekiel (vs 22)? When did He do this?

What does this reveal about the knowledge of God?

Who was the message in verses 23-29 directed to (vs 23-24)?

What did the people say about their right to possess the land (vs 24)?

What does this show about their attitudes?

What did God say those remaining in the land continued to do (vs 25)?

What sins were they committing (vs 26)?

What point was God trying to make in these verses?

What was going to happen to those who lived in Israel but did not follow God (vs 27)?

What was God going to do to the land (vs 28)?

How was this going to be greater destruction than what had already taken place?

What did God want them to know (vs 29)?

What did God say those in captivity were doing (vs 30)?

What did the people refuse to do (vs 31)?

What did God say Ezekiel was like to the people (vs 32)?

What was God going to make them know (vs 33)?

Why is it easy to want entertainment more than the truth of God's Word?

## ***“Taking Care of the Sheep”***

**Study:** Ezekiel 34:1-24

**Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46, Zechariah 11

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

**W**hen I coached boys soccer, one of the problems that I continually struggled with, especially in the public school environment, was the way the boys would treat those who were just learning the sport. Because we didn't have enough players for a JV team, we had 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders on the same team. The younger guys would get picked on, which was natural, but many of the older players would take this too far. They would say things and do things that would physically and mentally hurt these younger players and I had to constantly get after them for this. One of the things I attempted to get the older guys to do is to help the younger players. In doing so, that would help the team. Many did understand this, but there were a few who never seemed to get it.

Today, we are going to read how God rebuked the stronger sheep of the flock for pushing around and taking advantage of those who were weaker.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Throughout our study of the prophecies, we have seen several prophecies directed towards the leaders of Israel. Once again, God rebuked their leaders and compared them to shepherds who chose to feed themselves instead of taking care of the flock. They were pictured as killing their sheep to provide for their own personal needs and wants, but refusing to lead the sheep and take care of those they were entrusted to lead. One of the great responsibilities of the shepherd was to help the sheep who were weak and sick. They were to help those who were lost and gently lead them back to the fold. The leaders did the opposite of this by taking advantage of the weak and poor. They treated their people harshly which caused them to scatter, leaving them susceptible to the attacks from their enemies. The people ended up being spread so far away that it became impossible to gather them together again (vs 1-6).

God was not going to be kind to the leaders who chose not to be the

proper shepherds. The ones who failed to care for their sheep would be removed from their position as shepherds (vs 7-10).

Since the earthly shepherds failed the people, God was going to step in and act as the lead shepherd. He would search for His sheep who were scattered and rescue them from all the places they had been sent to. The Israelites who had been scattered would be gathered back into Israel where they would be led to abundant, rich pastures. All those who were injured would be bandaged with the proper care and would be nursed back to health. The nation would be re-established with justice. All of this appears to be a picture of what will happen when Christ returns to the earth (vs 11-16).

After the shepherds are judged, the sheep will also be divided. This pictures the judgement on those who took advantage of their fellow sheep. They were pictured as male rams and goats who bullied the rest of the group taking the best for themselves and leaving the leftovers for everyone else. They are pictured as causing the clear waters to be muddied and the good grass to be trampled down (vs 17-19).

Judgement would also take place between the fat and the lean sheep. The fat sheep were those who pushed the others out of the way so they could have the best of the land. They would use their power to overtake the poor and weak, pushing them away and causing harm. Those Israelites who did this to their fellow people would be judged as the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, was placed over the sheep. Jesus is pictured here as a descendant of David, which revealed his rightful position as their king (vs 20-24).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you notice the three categories of people who are being judged in this passage. The shepherds, the leaders of the people, were rebuked for using their people rather than helping their people. The rams, those who found pleasure in hurting others, were rebuked for making things harder for other sheep to succeed. They simply only cared for themselves. The fat sheep, those who were materially wealthy or physically strong, were rebuked for not allowing others to prosper. These are the same things that many people still do today. God's plan is for you to humble yourself to be a help to others. Not taking advantage others, but doing what you can for the benefit of others. When you spend your life and time investing in others, it not only pleases God, but also brings great satisfaction and fulfillment in your life.

Who did God want Ezekiel to prophesy against (vs 1-2)?

Who do you think the shepherds were a picture of (vs 1-2)?

What had the shepherds been doing (vs 3)?

What did they fail to do (vs 4)?

How do you think leaders can still do the same today?

What was the condition of the sheep (vs 5-6)?

What does this reveal about the importance of the shepherds?

What was the main rebuke against the shepherds (vs 8)?

Why do you think this is such a temptation for leaders?

What was God going to do to the shepherds (vs 9-10)?

What did God care about (vs 10)?

What was God going to do for the sheep (vs 11)?

How does verse 12 reveal the love of God?

What was God's plan for the scattered sheep of Israel (vs 13-16)?

What was God going to separate (vs 17)? Why (vs 18-19)?

What type of person do you think this is picturing?

Who was God going to judge (vs 20)?

What were the fat sheep doing (vs 21)?

How can you be like the fat sheep?

What do you think God wants you to learn from this passage?

# “*Showers of Blessings*”

**Study:** Ezekiel 34:25-35:15

**Reading:** Acts 3:17-26, James 5:7-12

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

**I** find myself watching the weather forecast quite often. Much of this is because I am constantly doing things outside and I often plan my days around the weather forecast. In the winter, I build an outdoor ice rink which is completely weather dependent, and in the summer I love to go out on my boat, which is also highly dependent upon the weather. In the fall I spend much of my time cutting wood and I have to know what the weather will be like so I know the best time to cut. About the only time I don't watch the weather much is from the middle of March to the end of April because you just can't do much outside during that time of year.

Today, we will read how we can know the future forecast for the showers of blessings in our lives. We will be reminded that when we seek after God and choose to follow His ways that He will shower us with His blessings.

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

Continuing the word picture which compared the nation of Israel to sheep, God described how he would banish wild beasts from the land so the people would be able to dwell anywhere in the land with peace and security. Whenever we see predictions like this, we realize that this is looking forward to end times events when Christ comes to rule and reign. The hill of God, a reference to Jerusalem, will be showered with great blessings. The trees will yield abundant fruit and the people will lack for nothing. The mention of security again reveals how important that is for human nature. To be able to live without the fear of being invaded or losing what you have is something that has always been longed for by mankind. They will not have to worry about the weather conditions for growing crops or what their future will look like because God will provide for them continually. The people will no longer be faced with hunger, but will live in constant abundance (vs 25-29).

It is at that time that the people will finally and completely recognize

that He is God. They will submit to Him and do what He says and He will take care of them as a good shepherd takes care of his sheep. He was their God and wanted to treat them with continual love and kindness. He desired to shower His blessings on His people (vs 30-31).

In chapter 35, God turned his attention to those who lived in Mount Seir (Edom) as He prophesied against them. Though Judah had fallen to the Babylonians, the kingdoms surrounding the region hadn't been attacked yet. Destruction was coming though, because that nation had continually caused problems for Israel. The people of Mount Seir failed to help Judah in their time of need (vs 1-5).

Edom was going to be repaid for the way they treated Israel and how they refused to help. Their land would become a waste land and many of the people would be killed. The hills and mountains that were used as protection would become full of the blood of the people. Their destruction would not just be a short one, but would last a long time as the region would never regain the prominence that it once had (vs 6-9).

Another reason that Edom would face destruction was because they plotted against both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. They wanted possession of that whole land. God was not going to treat this kindly and would make known to them that He was the God of that land as they faced the consequences for their actions (vs 10-11).

Not only had they refused to help the children of Israel in their time of need, but they also verbally made fun of Israel and lifted themselves up with their words. They rejoiced over the destruction of God's people, and as a result, the people of the world would rejoice over their destruction. They would be desolate and realize that the God of Israel was the one true God when He would accomplish His Word (vs 12-15).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize that God wants to shower you with His blessings? It is very easy to get the idea that God is naturally angry and if you do what He wants, His anger will be appeased. Yet Scripture reveals that God is actually a naturally loving God. He desires to pour out His blessings and doesn't desire to judge or cause harm. Because He is a just God, He must punish those who reject Him and His Word, but that is not His desire. God wants to bless you for choosing righteousness. When you understand how much God is on your side and wants to shower you with blessings, it will often change the reasons you do what you do. Make the choice to follow Him each day and expect the blessings that He has promised you.

What will God banish from the land (vs 25)? Why?

What will God send (vs 26)?

What will the trees do (vs 27)? What will this cause (vs 27)?

Why was dwelling in safety so important (vs 28)?

How can you live in this type of peace and security today?

What will they not have to suffer (vs 29)?

What did God want the people to recognize about Him (vs 30-31)?

### **Chapter 35**

Who was God against (vs 2)? What was He going to do (vs 3)?

What did God want them to know (vs 4)?

What reason did God give for His judgement (vs 5)?

What was God going to do to the land of Edom (vs 7)?

What did the future hold for the region (vs 9)?

What did the people of Edom want to do to Israel (vs 10)?

What was God going to repay (vs 11)?

What was the attitude of the Edomites when Jerusalem was destroyed (vs 12)?

What sin is described in verse 13?

How would the earth react when Edom was destroyed (vs 14)?

How was this a just punishment (vs 15)?

What did God want them to know (vs 15)?

## ***“Another Restoration Story”***

**Study:** Ezekiel 36:1-21

**Reading:** 1 John 1:5-10, Romans 7:14-25

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

**I**n our online society, we are constantly getting requests to review an item, place or service. Often when we buy things or choose to go somewhere, we take a great deal of time to read the reviews. When something only has a couple of reviews, it is hard to fully believe the ratings on that thing, but the more reviews that thing has, the more we often feel we can trust the accuracy of the information we are given.

Today, we are going to read how God gave another “review” of how He is going to restore His people. Over and over again God reminds His people His plan and His desire for restoration.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

The prophecy at the beginning of chapter 36 is directed towards the mountains of Israel. Though it is directed towards a natural land feature, it appears that the message was for all the people of Israel who were descendants of Abraham. The land at this time was desolate and had been over run by the enemies of Israel. There were few Israelites left in the land and other nations fought over who would possess it (vs 1-4).

The Edomites wanted to lay claim to the land so they could use it for pasture lands. Other nations wanted the land for various reasons and all of them would suffer for their desire to take over the land. Not only were the people of Israel special, but there was something special and significant about the land itself. God was jealous for the land and would cause all the nations who sought to possess the land to bring reproach upon themselves (vs 5-7).

The condition of Israel would not stay like this forever. God had plans to bring his people home so that the land would once again be prosperous and bear fruit. The people would live in the land and multiply so that the places which were left desolate would once again be filled with people. They were going to experience more blessings than they ever had before. The land would not only be theirs, but would be passed down from generation to generation. They would no longer have to

bereave the loss of their children. But would watch them grow and prosper. The name of Israel would no longer be a disgrace among the nations, but the land would be exalted and the nation would experience great success. Once again, it appears that this prophecy had a partial short term fulfillment and will also have a greater long term fulfillment that is yet to come (vs 8-15).

God recounted to Ezekiel why He chose to decimate the land. The people of Israel defiled their land and brought upon them the wrath of God. As a result, God chose to scatter them among the nations as He judged them for their deeds. Even when they were scattered, they chose to adopt many of the pagan practices of the land causing others to wonder what made Israel different. This was of great concern to the Lord since His people were not showing to others who He truly was. They were profaning His name (vs 16-21).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Once again we are given a message of restoration. These messages are inserted throughout the messages of destruction to help give hope to the people of God. Though this message is given directly to the land of Israel and the people who were called to be inhabitants of that land, the theme of restoration in the Bible isn't limited to Israel. It is a prevalent message in the New Testament where God reveals His great desire to forgive the sins of men and give them a place of honor as His children. Even when His children fall short, He longs for them to repent and turn to Him so He can restore them and pour out His great mercy upon their lives. Let this be a constant reminder to you when you fall short and repent. Remember that you don't have to live defeated because God loves to restore His children.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for the restoration He has brought to your life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you accept the forgiveness He offers.*
- \* *Praise God because He is the God of second chances.*

## **Thought for the day**

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Who was this prophecy directed towards (vs 1)?

Why do you think it was directed at this land feature?

What had the enemies said (vs 2)?

What was the current status of the mountains of Israel (vs 3-4)?

Why was God jealous against the nations (vs 5)?

What had Israel gone through (vs 6)?

What was going to happen to the nations around Israel (vs 7)? Why?

What was going to happen to Israel (vs 8)?

What was God's view towards Israel (vs 9)?

What was God's plan for Israel (vs 10)?

What was going to happen to Israel (vs 11)?

What would the land no longer be sad about (vs 12)?

What had the nations said about Israel (vs 13)?

What would the land no longer have to do (vs 14)?

What would Israel no longer hear (vs 15)?

What did God compare the actions of Israel to (vs 17)?

What did God do as a result of their sin (vs 18)?

Where were the Israelites currently living (vs 19)?

What does God emphasize about their sin (vs 20)?

What was God still concerned about (vs 21)?



# “Filling the Land”

**Study:** Ezekiel 36:22-38

**Reading:** Zechariah 8:1-23

**Memory:** Psalm 119:7

Several years ago, we were given two bunny rabbits. They were cute and cuddly when they were small, but one thing we were told was to keep an eye on what gender they were when they started maturing. Rabbits are known for having very fast reproduction rates. We tried to keep an eye on this, but did not separate them soon enough and soon the female gave birth. None of the babies survived and we made sure to divide the rabbits into two different cages after that.

Today, we will read about how God will bless Israel and they will one day be able to reproduce abundantly, repopulating the land.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Though God loved His people and wanted them to turn back to Him, He was not going to restore them just for their sake, but was going to do it for the sake of His name. The view of God had been warped because of the sin of His people and the judgement which He delivered. Once God acted it would vindicate His name which had become profaned. It would be clear to all the nations that He was the true God. Though there has been partial restorations of the land of Israel, this full restoration will not happen until the end times. During that time, God will purify the people and give them a new heart. Their hearts which had become like stone, would be replaced with softened hearts. His Spirit would be put inside of them and they will have a desire to walk in the ways of God (vs 22-27).

The people will dwell in the land and they will worship God in the proper way. They will not live unclean lives, but be pure and holy before Him. As a result, God will provide abundant food and everything the people needed. They will look back on their rejection of God and His word and loathe the times they chose not to follow in His paths. God was not going to do this because of anything the nation was doing at that time. They were still continuing to live in sin and didn't deserve the restoration that He will one day bring (vs 28-32).

When this day of cleansing comes, God will restore the people to their cities. The land that was currently desolate and broken down, but it will become a land comparable to the Garden of Eden. The cities will be rebuilt and all the things that were ruined will be restored. God had made up His mind and nothing is going to stop Him from accomplishing this plan (vs 33-36).

Not only will the land be restored and the people be gathered from all over, but God will cause the people to increase like a flock of sheep. They would be pure, like lambs for a sacrifice, and would multiply in a supernatural way. The cities and the land will be filled with people which is vital for a nation to thrive. People will understand and know that God is the Lord when He accomplishes these things (vs 37-38).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Though God has not completely fulfilled this prophecy, you can see glimpses of this fulfillment when you look at the history of Israel. After the Babylonians were conquered, the Persians sent many Jews back to rebuild the land of Israel. It started to be repopulated and grew until the destruction of Judah by the Romans around A.D. 70. Since that time, the Israelites did live in the land, but not in abundance until the late 1800's when Jews started moving back to Israel. I believe the fact that Israel became a state 1948 and has grown by leaps and bounds ever since is part of that fulfillment today. People are repopulating the land, crops are growing at an amazing rate, and there is construction taking place everywhere in the land of Israel. No other distinct people group from the time of the Babylonian kingdom exists today except for the nation of Israel. God is keeping His Word and this is just a small glimpse of His plans for His kingdom.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God because He keeps His promises to you.*
- \* *Ask God to help you believe His promises.*
- \* *Praise God because He knows exactly what is going to happen.*

## Thought for the day

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Why did God say He was about to act (vs 22)?

Why do you think He told Israel that He wasn't going to act for their sake (vs 22)?

Why was God concerned about His name (vs 23)?

What did God want the nations to know (vs 23)?

Where is God going to gather His children from (vs 24)?

How are things going to be different (vs 25)?

Why was a new heart so important (vs 26)?

What was He going to put in them (vs 27)?

Why is having the Spirit of God so important for obedience to Him (vs 28)?

What was going to be abundant (vs 29)?

What will they not have to suffer again (vs 30)?

How will they look back on their past (vs 31)?

Why do you think God was emphasizing that He would not act for their sake (vs 32)?

What was God going to cause to happen (vs 33)?

What will the land become like (vs 34-35)?

What will the nations know (vs 36)?

How would God increase the people (vs 37)?

Why was repopulation so important (vs 38)?

Memory Verse:

*Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.*