

OUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE WORD

Schedule for July 10-16, 2017

EZEKIEL

- MON** CH. 33: God appointed Ezekiel Israel's watchman; those who ignore his warnings are responsible for their own death. Those who repent, God forgives; those who sin, He punishes. Ezekiel, his voice restored, was to warn those left in ruined Jerusalem, who were greedy for abandoned properties, that they too will fall by the sword. Though many liked to hear Ezekiel speak, no one obeyed what he said (cf. James 1:22-25).
- TUE** CH. 34: Ezekiel was to prophesy against Israel's shepherds (leaders) who fed themselves, not the sheep, but preyed on them and let them be scattered. God will judge them for fattening themselves at the others' expense. He will gather his sheep into a land with good pastures and heal their wounds. Messiah will be their Shepherd and God will make the land rich and secure. They'll know that He is their God (cf. Jn. 10:1-18).
- WED** CH. 35: Ezekiel must prophesy against Mt. Seir (Edom), Israel's near neighbor. Edom sought to profit from Israel's and Judah's demise. The LORD will make Edom utterly desolate.
- THU** CH. 36: Ezekiel was to assure *"the mountains of Israel"* that the nations that inflicted reproach upon them will suffer the same reproach. The LORD will gather his people into their own land and make them prosper, despite their sinfulness, for His name's sake. *"Then they will know that I am the LORD"* (v.38).
- FRI** CH. 37: Ezekiel's vision of a field of dry bones represents the dead nation of Israel. When he preached God's Word to them, they came alive with skin and became a great army. Similarly the two sticks now joined—one Judah, one Israel—revealed God's plan to unite the divided kingdoms under the rule of Messiah and a new covenant. He will dwell in their midst.
- SAT** CH. 38: Gog of Magog is likely an historical person who, from the boundaries described, reigned over a kingdom in the northern edge of what we now call the Middle East. God is against him yet grants to Gog and his allies victory in order to vindicate His holiness before the nations. Nonetheless, God will judge them when they come against Israel.
- SUN** CH. 39: When Gog comes against Israel, God knocks the weapons from his hand and him to the ground! The army of Magog will be devoured and by this, God will make his holy name known to Israel. The carnage will be so great that it will take seven months for Israel to bury the dead and seven years for them to burn the fallen weapons as fuel. Then God will restore his people to the land and pour out his Spirit on them.