

An Outline of the Gospel in Ezekiel 36 from *The Gospel in Ezekiel* by Thomas Guthrie

This portion of Scripture, extending onwards from the 16th verse, presents an epitome or outline of the Gospel. Its details, with their varied beauties, are here, so to speak, in shade; but the grand truths of redemption stand boldly up, much as we have seen from sea the lofty headlands of a dim and distant coast. . . . Thus it may be well, occasionally at least, to examine the Gospel in the broad shadows and strongly defined outlines of the old covenant economy; and through God's government of his ancient people, to study the motives, the nature, and the ends of His dealings with ourselves. In this way the passage before us has peculiar claims upon our attention. Applicable, in the first instance, to the condition of the Jews, it presents a remarkable summary of Gospel doctrines, in a form approaching at least to systematic order.

- In the 17th verse, we have man sinning: “*Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way, and by their doings.*”
- In the 18th verse, we have man suffering: “*Wherefore I poured my fury upon them.*”
- In the 21st verse, we see man as an object of mercy: “*but,*” God says, “*I had pity.*”
- In the 22d verse, man is an object of *free* mercy—mercy without merit: “*I do not this for your sakes, O, house of Israel.*”
- In the 24th verse, man's salvation is resolved upon: “*I will bring you into your own land.*”

- In the 25th verse, man is justified: “*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean.*”
- In the 26th and 27th verses, man is renewed and sanctified: “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them.*”
- In verses 28 through 35, man is restored to the place and privileges which he forfeited by his sins: “*Ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*” (v. 28); “*This land that was desolate, is become like the garden of the Lord.*” (v. 35)
- In the 36th verse, we have our security for these blessings: “*I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.*”
- Finally, in the 37th verse, we have the means of obtaining these blessings through prayer: “*I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them.*”