

**A Divine Heart Transplant  
 and the Restoration of YHWH's Honor  
 Ezekiel 36:16–32  
 Veritas Sabbath School  
 April 10, 2021**

<sup>16</sup>The following message of YHWH came to me: <sup>17</sup>Human, concerning the house of Israel, at the time they were occupying their land, they defiled it with their conduct and their unrestrained behavior. In my view their conduct was like the impurity of menstruation. <sup>18</sup>So I poured out my fury upon them, on account of the blood they had poured out on the land and for their pellets of dung with which they had defiled it. <sup>19</sup>I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed among the countries. I punished them in accordance with their conduct and their unrestrained behavior. <sup>20</sup>But when they arrived among those nations, they caused my holy name to be desecrated, inasmuch as it was said of them, “These are the people of YHWH? How is it then that they have had to leave his land?” <sup>21</sup>Then I was concerned about my holy name which the house of Israel had desecrated among the nations to which they had come.

<sup>22</sup>Therefore, say to the house of Israel, “Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: It is not for your sake that I will act, O house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have desecrated among the nations wherever you have gone. <sup>23</sup>I will sanctify my great name, which has been desecrated among the nations—which you have desecrated in their midst. And the nations will know that I am YHWH—the declaration of YHWH—when I manifest my holiness through you before their very eyes.

<sup>24</sup>I will take you from the nations; I will gather you from all the lands;  
I will bring you to your own land.

<sup>25</sup>I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean.

From all your defilements and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

<sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart; I will implant a new spirit within you.

I will remove the stone heart from your body; I will give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup>I will implant my spirit within you.

I will cause you to walk in my ordinances,  
so you will diligently observe my stipulations [of the covenant].

<sup>28</sup>You will occupy the land which I gave to your fathers;

You will be my people, And I will be your God.

<sup>29</sup>I will deliver you from all your defilements;

I will summon the grain; I will make it abundant.

I will not impose famine upon you.

<sup>30</sup>I will increase the fruit of the tree and the crops of the field, so you will never again suffer the abuse among the nations, which famine causes.

<sup>31</sup>Then you will recall your evil conduct and your improper behavior, and loathe yourselves on account of your iniquities, and on account of your abominations. <sup>32</sup>It is not for your sake that I will act—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—Be informed! You should be ashamed and humiliated on account of your ways, O house of Israel!

<sup>33</sup>Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: At the same time as I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause your cities to be inhabited and the ruined places to be rebuilt. <sup>34</sup>The waste land will be cultivated, instead of lying desolate before all passers-by. <sup>35</sup>Then they will say, "This very land, once desolate, has become like the garden of Eden; the cities, once waste and desolate and ruined, are now fortified and inhabited." <sup>36</sup>Then the nations, which are left round about you, will know that I am YHWH; I have rebuilt the ruins; I have replanted the waste land. I am YHWH; I have spoken; I will act.

<sup>37</sup>Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Furthermore, I will respond to the request of the house of Israel to act on their behalf. I will cause their population to increase like a human flock. <sup>38</sup>Like a consecrated flock, like the flock in Jerusalem at the time of her appointed feasts, so will the ruined cities be filled with human flocks. Then they will know that I am YHWH.

### Exposition

#### Introduction: Outline

Preamble: Formulaic Introduction (v. 15)

- A. The Crisis for YHWH's Honor (vv. 16–21)
- B. The Restoration of YHWH's Honor (vv. 22–32)
- C. The Vindication of YHWH's Honor (vv. 33–38a)
  - 1. Among the Nations (vv. 33–36)
  - 2. In Israel (vv. 37–38a)

Epilogue? Formulaic Conclusion (v. 38b)

#### A. Who are the candidates for a divine heart transplant?

- 1. People who demonstrate their sickness by the way they live (vv. 17–20).
- 2. They are fundamentally sick from the inside out (vv. 17–20).

#### B. How does such a heart transplant happen?

- 1. The Surgical Procedure
- 2. The Identity of the Surgeon
- 3. The Nature of the Surgery

#### C. How do we respond to such an operation?

- 1. By living according to his will
- 2. By recognizing in this experience the free and gracious gift of God.
- 3. By being humbled and grateful for the divine work of grace.

#### D. How does this change the world in which we live?

- 1. YHWH's name will be vindicated among the nations (vv. 33–36).
- 2. YHWH's reputation/name will be vindicated in Israel (36:37–38).

#### E. Lessons from Ezekiel's Prophecy of Israel's Heart Transplant

- 1. Although the LORD's ways may be mysterious, they are not hidden.
- 2. The goal of God's actions in human history is that his people and the world may know that he is YHWH.
- 3. The future for Israel and God's people generally rests in the eternal immutable promises of God.
- 4. The only solution for the fallen human race is a fundamental cleansing, a heart transplant, an infusion of the divine spirit.