

God our Sanctuary

Ezekiel 11:13-25

Intro:

- The Names of God
 - Revelations & expressions of His character
- We come to Ezekiel's time:
 - A time of sin, corruption, moral decay
 - “they shall know that I am the Lord.” 50+x
 - Judgment is coming and soon!
 - BUT, God has a promise for His people
 - And a name for us today...

I. A Great Time of Trouble (11:1-13)

- Ezekiel is receiving revelations...
 - Seeing the people as they are in their rebellion
 - “cooking pot” theology... (3)
 - 25 men (8:16 – sun worshipers), 2 leaders
 - “Jehovah hears” & “Jehovah’s remnant”
 - Acting like nations, judged by the nations
- Pelatiah dies while he preaches warning
 - Ezekiel fears that “the remnant” will die also
 - A need for hope no matter what the situation
 - When all else fails, God is still God!

II. A Great Promise Made (14-18)

- Forsaking God and telling others (15)
- The Land is ours! No need of God...
- BUT GOD:
 - God had scattered His people.. To protect them!
 - Sent them to see life without God
 - “yet I was a sanctuary to them” *Miqdash*
 - usually refers to the Temple, the Holy Place
 - God becomes this for us in our “far away” places
 - His Presence does not leave us... (22-24)

III. A Great Change

- God has a plan:
 - I shall gather you; I shall give you the Land (17)
 - People we see the need to clean up! (18)
 - ONE HEART – HIS! New Spirit... heart of flesh!
 - Hearts of stone... law was on stone!
 - Walk in MY statutes; Keep MY ordinances - safety
 - BE MY People, BE THEIR God
 - Intimate relationship based in LOVE
 - Judgment of conduct to those who “idolize”

Applications:

- God sees the hearts of all people:
- Arrogance, self-reliance, evil advice
- But also: humility, sorrow, repentance
- God is more concerned for His people
- In our “Dispersion” there are lessons to learn
- He is our *Miqdash* in the midst of it all
- His Heart, His Spirit, His Promise
- And the Glory of the God of the People...