# RECORDING THIS SESSION



# Bible Study -Year 3

# Ezekiel 37-44

Ezekiel, as depicted by Michelangelo on the Sistine Chapel ceiling

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Antiphon 2: Help us, O God our Savior, and pardon all our sins.

Psalm 79:1-5,8-11,13 Lament for Jerusalem If only you had known what would bring you peace (Luke 19:42)

O God, the nations have invaded your land, they have profaned your holy temple. They have made Jerusalem a heap of ruins. They have handed over the bodies of your servants as food to feed the birds of heaven and the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.

They have poured out blood like water in Jerusalem; no one is left to bury the dead. We have become the taunt of our neighbors, the mockery and scorn of those who surround us. How long, O Lord? Will you be angry for ever; how long will your anger burn like fire?

Do not hold the guilt of our father against us. Let your compassion hasten to meet us; we are left in the depths of distress. O God our savior, come to our help. Come for the sake of the glory of your name. O Lord our God, forgive us our sins; rescue us for the sake of your name.

Why should the nations say: Where is their God?

Let us see the nations around us repaid with vengeance for the blood of your servants that was shed!

Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; let your strong arm reprieve those condemned to die.

But we, your people, the flock of your pasture, will give you thanks for ever and ever. We will tell your praise from age to age.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,and to the Holy Spirit:— as it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be for ever. Amen.

**Psalm Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of your Church, in order to strengthen our faith and lead us to the kingdom, you renewed and far surpassed the marvels of the old law. Through the uncertainties of this earthly journey, lead us home to the everlasting pastures.

**Antiphon:** Help us, O God our Savior, and pardon all our sins.



https://historyonlinenow.weebly.com/section-1-civilization-in-the-fertile-crescent.html

# Chapter 37

## IV. Hope for the Future

#### Vision of the Dry Bones

- Ez led to Place in center of wide valley filled with very dry bones
- v3, God's question, Ez's reply
- vv4-6, command to prophesy to dry bones
- v7, so Ez did (obedience)
- v8, came together, but not alive
- Then breathe / life (*ruah*)
- READ v14, then the spirit of God
- Interpretation: God will bring the dead nation of Israel back to vibrant life with his breath, his spirit within them
  - Creation of a New Israel



Engraving of "The Vision of The Valley of The Dry Bones" by Gustave Doré, 1800s

### Morning Offering

Starting the morning off with God is the key to strength and success in your day.

MorningOffering.co

# OCTOBER 8, 2021

"God writes his name on the soul of every man."

- Venerable Fulton Sheen

#### MEDITATION OF THE DAY



#### **II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"**

**362** The human **person**, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal <u>and</u> spiritual. The biblical account expresses this reality in symbolic language when it affirms that "then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Man, whole and entire, is therefore *willed* by God.

**363** In Sacred Scripture the term "soul" often refers to human *life* or the <u>entire</u> human *person*. But "soul" also refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him, that by which he is most especially in God's image: "soul" signifies the *spiritual principle* in man.



### **II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"**

**364** The human body shares in the dignity of "the image of God": it is a human body precisely because it is **animated** by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit:

Man, though made of body and soul, **is a unity**. Through his very bodily condition he sums up in himself the elements of the material world. Through him they are thus brought to their highest perfection and can raise their voice in praise freely given to the Creator. For this reason man may not despise his bodily life. Rather he is obliged to regard his body as good and to hold it in honor since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day.



#### II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

**365** The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the "form" of the body: i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter, in man, are **not** two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.

**366** The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God - it is not "produced" by the parents - and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.

#### CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CATHOLIC CHURCH SECOND EDITION Resident in accordance with the official Latin text promulgated by Paper January Industry resident of paragraph on 2507

#### II. "BODY AND SOUL BUT TRULY ONE"

**367** Sometimes the soul is distinguished from the spirit: St. Paul for instance prays that God may sanctify his people "wholly", with "spirit and soul and body" kept sound and blameless at the Lord's coming (1 These 5:23). The Church teaches that this distinction does **not** introduce a duality into the soul. "Spirit" signifies that from creation man is ordered to a supernatural end and that his soul can gratuitously be raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God. [God consciousness]

**368** The spiritual tradition of the Church also emphasizes the *heart*, in the biblical sense of the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God.



What is the Difference Between Soul and Spirit? | Catholic Answers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUO9G9PNv54

Body and Soul (Aquinas 101) | Thomistic Inst. www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTzNGUCJkm4

# Soul vs Spirit vs Conscience

#### What is Soul?



The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual (CCC 362). The reason behind this is the unity found between the body and the spiritual soul that animates it (CCC 364). From this we can come to the conclusion that the soul is what gives life to the body, the life principle. Without the soul the body is nothing more than an inanimate object. If anyone (human beings) or anything (plants, animals etc) is alive then the body is united to a soul.

It is to be understood that the human soul is unique and different from that of a plant or an animal. In man, the soul has not only vegetative powers (as plants have) and sensitive powers (as animals have) but also rational powers. This is why human beings can understand abstract notions like morality and justice while other living beings cannot.

The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not "produced" by the parents – and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection. – CCC 366

# Soul vs Spirit vs Conscience

#### What is spirit?

In normal circumstances both soul and spirit mean the same and can be used interchangeably. But there are also instances where soul and spirit are distinguished from each other like what St.Paul does while writing to the Thessalonians.

 "May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your *spirit* and *soul* and *body* be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." – 1 Thessalonians 5:23

- Cale -

Here when soul is portrayed separately, it means that which gives life to a body while "spirit" when contrasted with "soul" simply means those aspects of human life and activity that transcend our bodily limitations and so open the soul toward the supernatural life of grace (spirituality). It is worthwhile to look at what the CCC talks about soul and spirit.

In Sacred Scripture the term "soul" often refers to human life or the entire human person. But "soul" also refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him, that by which he is most especially in God's image: "soul" signifies the spiritual principle in man. – CCC 363

"Spirit" signifies that from creation man is ordered to a supernatural end and that his soul can gratuitously be raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God. – CCC 367

https://catholic.cafe/2020/01/09/can-you-help-understand-the-difference-between-soul-spirit-and-conscience/

# Soul vs Spirit vs Conscience

#### What is conscience?



St.Thomas Aquinas in his work Summa Theologiae defines conscience as the "application of knowledge to activity". There are two things which need to be understood: application of knowledge and activity. <u>Application</u> of knowledge refers to judging whether an actual or potential action of mine (the activity) is or was good or bad, obligatory, forbidden or optional.

The knowledge used here is nothing other than the law of God inscribed in our hearts and it is the internal rational capacity that helps us in doing so. Therefore conscience is a part of the human soul and is one of the characteristics which makes it (the human soul) unique.

According to Catechism conscience is man's most secret core or the sanctuary where he is alone with God whose voice echoes in its deaths. It is where the law of God is inscribed in man. It is the voice that calls him to love and avoid evil. (CCC 1776 – paraphrased)



Two of Barbra Streisand's dogs, Miss Violet and Miss Scarlett, are clones of her late dog Sammie.





### Would a human clone have a soul? -Jimmy Akin

#### **Question:**

With all the recent talk about cloning, I've got to know: <mark>Would a human clone</mark> <mark>have a soul?</mark>

#### **Answer:**

Yes, since every living thing has a soul. Plants have vegetative souls (capable of life and growth), animals have sensitive souls (capable of life, growth, and feeling), and humans have rational souls (capable of life, growth, feeling, and rational thought). Only the last kind survives death since only it is made of spirit; souls of plants and animals are made of matter and die when they die. Since a human clone would be alive, it would have a soul, and since a human clone would be rational and possess a human body, it would have the same sort of soul as every other human. The soul is created directly by God. The human soul is the substantial form and animating life principle of the human body. How you get that body, whether by natural generation, in vitro fertilization, or cloning is irrelevant. God still creates its soul.

https://www.catholic.com/qa/would-a-human-clone-have-a-soul

# Chapter 37

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Engraving of "The Vision of The Valley of The Dry Bones" by Gustave Doré, 1800s

# Chapter 37

## IV. Hope for the Future

- The Two Sticks
- vv15-17 two sticks, Judah and Ephraim, bind to make one stick
- vv18-19- God will restore the broken kingdom to one nation of His people
  - ONE in God's hand
- vv23-28, Messianic vision David as king over the one land of all people gathered together, following the ordinances of the Lord
  - v24, David, my servant, will be king over them — one shepherd
- v26, 'covenant of peace' (recall Ez 34:25)



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Commonwealth\_Theology

# Chapter 38 - 39

## IV. Hope for the Future

- Final Victory of the Lord (Divine Warrior) over the Pagan World
- A Prophecy stating that after Israel is restored, enjoying peace

   a nation from the north, Gog, will attack Israel with a mighty
   army while Israel is weak from exile
  - \* But God will protect His people, and God will triumph
- Ezekiel is trying to reassure his hearers of God's permanent protection
- Historical AND Messianic context
  - Historical an actual attack post-exilic time, possibly the Seleucids (??) during the Maccabean era
  - Messianic evil forces seeking to undermine the Church and Christians — in Last Days

### Chapter 38-39

## IV. Hope for the Future

#### First, Second, Third Prophecies Against Gog

- We really don't know who/what the nation of Gog believed to be mythical - comprised of many of Israel's enemies
- They intend on attacking Israel, who they perceive to be weak (note v8)
- 38:3, But God says, I, Myself am coming against you, God God is Israel's protector
- 38:10, you will devise a plan to attack Israel
- v16, God will let Gog invade so God can show his power
- 38:18, But on that day, My fury will flare to anger...
- 38:21-22, I will summon sword and disease, judgment against Gog
- 38:23, I will show my greatness and they will know I am the Lord

### Chapter 38-39

### IV. Hope for the Future

- First, Second, Third Prophecies Against Gog
- 39:2-3, I will turn you around and strike you
  - Even though I allowed/urged you on
  - v4, Gog will be annihilated, never to rise again
  - Entire army slain (v4) → then weapons burned, signifying peace has come (vv9-10) → then all dead bodies buried (vv11-16)
- v6, I will send fire
- v7, I will reveal My holy name and never again allow it to be defiled
- v11, wraps it up = army of Gog will be buried
- v17, the army of Gog will provide a feast for the birds and wild beasts



### IV. Hope for the Future

### Israel's Return

- Summary section
- God will restore Israel, and Israel will be his glory
  - His holiness will be visible to other nation through Israel
- Other nations will see this, and will know that I am the Lord
- READ v27
- READ v29



### IV. Hope for the Future

#### Vatican II - Lumen Gentium, §4

• "The Church, which the Spirit guides in the way of all truth and which he unified in communion and in works of ministry, he both equips and directs with hierarchal and charismatic gifts and adores with his fruits. By the power of the Gospel he makes the Church keep the freshness of youth. Uninterruptedly he renews her and leads her to perfect union with her spouse."

# Final Restoration Prophecies

- Chapters 40-48:
- Ezekiel concludes his prophecies on the restoration with a detailed, beautiful description of the New Temple and the New Promised and Holy Land
- In Catholicism, we see this as prophecy about the Messianic Kingdom, the New Church, founded by Christ

### V. The New Israel

### Chapter 40 - 42: The New Temple

- The Man with a Measure
- The last vision of Ez is:
  - 1. a detailed description fo the new Temple (40-42)
    - NOTE: God is the Architectural genius behind the design
  - 2. The new form of worship (43-46)
    - NOTE: God is defining the liturgical nuances
    - 43:11b- 'WRITE IT DOWN so they can reference back to my instructions'
  - 3. Division of the land of the new Israel (47-48)

### V. The New Israel

### **Chapter 40 - 42: The New Temple**

- The Man with a Measure
- About 10th of Nisan [March-April] 573BC
  - 25th year of the exile; 14 years after the fall of Jerusalem
  - In a vision, God's hand brought Ez back to Jerusalem vision, placed him on a high mountain — Mt. Zion
  - Saw 'something like a city' on it
  - v3, man at entrance appearance of bronze (beautiful angel in human form)
    - holding linen cord and measuring rod (6 cubits long)
  - v4, Man: 'look carefully, listen intently, pay strict attention
    - \* Then tell Israel EVERYTHING to the Israelites.
  - v5, Measured the wall around the Temple



### V. The New Israel

### **Chapter 40 - 42: The New Temple**

- No mention of the <u>Ark of the Covenant</u>
- 40:48 41:15, This Temple like Solomon's Temple had 4 parts:
  - Vestibule, Holy Place, Holy of Holies, and Lateral Building
  - Entering those places = the high priest of on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16)
  - The entrance of each part is increasingly narrower the closer one travels near the most sacred area: Holy of Holies








































#### V. The New Israel

#### **The New Temple**

#### Other Structures

















## V. The New Israel

#### **Chapter 40 - 42: The New Temple**

- Measuring the Outer Court.
- Key verse, v20 to separate
  - the sacred (grounds of the Temple)
  - from the profane (the rest of the world)







#### **EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE VISION**

ww.bibliaprints.com

https://bibliaprints.com/free-bible-animations/



https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/places/main-articles/second-temple



https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-second-temple

# V. The New Israel

#### **Restoration of the Temple**

- The Glory of the Lord <u>Returns</u>
- Ezekiel's Vision continues
- v2At East Gate: THE GLORY OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL WAS COMING FROM THE <u>EAST</u>!
  - Similar in appearance to Chap 1, vision when he was coming to destroy Jerusalem
  - v4, glory of Lord entered Temple via East gate
- v5, spirit lifted him up, to the inner courts
- READ v5b oh yeah!!! (Remember: Ex 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 7:1) -
  - The 'Shekinah' the settling or dwelling of God's Spirit





### V. The New Israel

#### **Restoration of the Temple**

- The Glory of the Lord <u>Returns</u>
- v6, Ez hears God speak "my throne"
- v7, READ \*\*God desires to dwell with his people in his holy place
- God's house must never be defiled
- v9, READ

# V. The New Israel

### **Restoration of the Temple**

- The Law of the Temple
- God wants Ez to tell the people of the vision of the Temple — about his presence returning
  - Wants them to be ashamed of their sins
- v11, want Ez to tell all the detail of the new Temple
- And to WRITE IT DOWN so they have it always to refer to - so they will be careful to observe all the laws (Remember Shema!, Deut 6:4-8)

# V. The New Israel

### **Restoration of the Temple**

#### The Altar

- vv13-17, Specific dimensions of the Altar
- V18: Altar statutes for sacrificing
  - The High Priest will be in the line of Zadok

• Who was Zadok? - one moment...

- Young bull brought to priest -
- Day 2 unblemished male goat
- Unblemished young bull and ram
- Salt, sacrifice
- Daily x 7 days male goat
- V27, when done, from day 8 on- priests can sacrifice burnt and communion offerings
- "Then I will be pleased with you"



https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/anthropology/tutor/case\_studies/hebrews/political.html



Not mentioned in 2 Samuel

# 1 Chronicle 24

**David makes preparations for the Temple** 

- There was orderly distribution of service prescribed for the Temple
  - Priestly Divisions (24) for sons of Aaron
    - Zadok 16 groups
    - Ahimelech 8 groups
    - \*\*Functions assigned impartially by lot
      - v6- Scribe Shemaiah, in presence of king - records everything
    - NOTE v10b, the 8th lot to Abijah
      - Zechariah: Luke 1:5, 1:9
  - Other Levites, vv 20-31, note last line of v31



V. The New Israel

#### Who was Zadok?

- 43:18 The High Priest will now be <u>specifically</u> from the line of **Zadok**
- 1 Chr 5:27-41 Aaron → Eleazar → Phinehas
  → → → Zadok
- During David's battles and lifetime, Zadok was a faithful, dependable priest (along with Ahimelech) -2 Sam 8:15-17
- Zadok (with Nathan the prophet) anointed Solomon king after David's death (1 King 1:45)

# V. The New Israel

#### **Restoration of the Temple**

#### The Closed Gate

- v1, A closed gate facing east
- through which the Lord will enter the holy Temple
  - v2, "Must remain closed"
    - For the Lord will enter the Temple through that gate
      - and remain
- v3, prince may sit and eat meal king of this new theocracy
  - While his sacrifice is being offered
  - Assumes the prince reigns in accordance with the laws of God
  - Prince will enter and leave by this gate



#### The Beautiful Gate, or The Golden Gate https://www.crystalinks.com/jerusalemgates.html



# The Beautiful Gate, or The Golden Gate

https://www.crystalinks.com/jerusalemgates.html

The Golden Gate, — oldest of the current gates in Jerusalem's Old City Walls.

According to <u>Jewish tradition</u>, the <u>Shekhinah</u> (Divine Presence) used to appear through this gate, and will appear again when the Messiah comes (Ezekiel 44:1-3) and a new gate replaces the present one; that is why Jews used to pray for mercy at the former gate at this location. Hence the name Sha'ar Harachamim, the **Gate of Mercy**.

In <u>Christian apocryphal texts</u>, the gate was the scene of a meeting between the parents of Mary, so that Joachim and Anne Meeting at the **Golden Gate** became a standard subject in cycles depicting the Life of the Virgin. (*Protoevangelium of James, §4*)

\*\*It is also said that Jesus passed through this gate on Palm Sunday.

In Arabic, it is known as the Gate of Eternal Life.

In ancient times, the gate was known as the Beautiful Gate.





Legend of St Joachim, Meeting at the Golden Gate, By Giotto di Bondone, 1305, in the Scrovegni Chapel (Protoevangelium of James, §4)





Fathers of Church = figure of Our Lady's perpetual virginity

Who is this gate, if not Mary? Is it not closed because she is a virgin? Mary is the gate through which Christ entered this world, when he was brought forth in the Virginia birth and the manner of his birth did not break the seals of virginity.

- St Ambrose of Milan in *The Consecration of a Virgin and the Perpetual Virginity of Mary*, §8, §52

# V. The New Israel

#### The New Law

- Admission to the Temple
- v4, aahhh, so amazing the glory of the Lord, the Shekhinah
- v5, Lord: Again: pay close attention, look carefully, listen intently — so you can tell Israel EVERYTHING — about my laws
- v6b, Say: Enough!
  - vv7-9, the indictment, the New Order
    - Uncircumcised (heart and flesh), non-Israelites were caring for the Temple
    - Covenant was broken
    - From no on, no uncircumcised, non-Israelite will enter Temple
  - God's house is holy

## V. The New Israel

#### The New Law

#### Levites

- v10, those Levites who strayed, worshiped idols
  will bear consequences of their sin
- v11, their job: only as gatekeepers and temple servants, slaughter animals for sacrifice
- Were a stumbling block for God's people
- v13, are 'defrocked' no longer serve as priests, touch sacred things, etc...
  - Will be servants (note God's mercy could have killed them)

# V. The New Israel

#### The New Law

- Priests
- v15, Sons of Zadok were faithful during adversity
- v16, they may enter my holy place, sanctuary
- Remember Leviticus
- v17, wear linen garments, v18, Turbans on head
- v19b, Take off holy garment when leave so not to transfer his holiness/[consecrated-ness] to the people
- v20, don't shave, but be well kempt
- List of regulations continue, vv21-31
  - NOTE v 23, key!!
  - NOTE v28



Zadok line of priests

https://www.geni.com/people/Zadok-1-High-Priest/600000007133203236

# NEXT WEEK:

# The Lord's Glory in Israel's Liberation - Ezekiel 45-48

The Beginning of the Synagogue -Part 1 (3 part series)

# **CLOSING PRAYER**

Antiphon 1: The Lord has brought me to green pastures, alleluia.

#### Psalm 23 The Good Shepherd

The lamb himself will be their shepherd and will lead them to the springs of living waters. (Revelation 7:17)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Psalm Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of your Church, you give us new birth in the waters of Baptism; you anoint us with oil, and call us to salvation at your table. Dispel the terrors of death and the darkness of error. Lead your people along safe paths, that they may rest securely in you and live for ever in your Father's house.

Antiphon: The Lord has brought me to green pastures, alleluia.

May the Lord + bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. - Amen.