

Wake Union Baptist Church

*"Where the good news of Jesus Christ
is proclaimed in truth and love"*

THE LORD'S DAY

November 29, 2020

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
*for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.*

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

MATTHEW 5:3-6

Call to Worship *Blessed Assurance* 334

Invocation

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Reading **1 Peter 1:6-12**

Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* 93

Children's Bible Time March (ages 3-6)

Morning Prayer

Hymn *Amazing Grace,
My Chains Are Gone*

Offertory Prayer

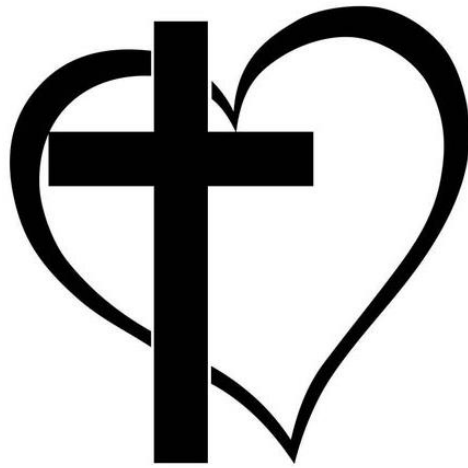
Doxology *Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow* 253

Hymn *Midnight Cry*

Sermon **SONG OF THE PROPHET** Pastor Joel
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Invitation *Change My Heart, O God*

Benediction



Spiritual Resurrection

Our passage today reveals something very important about the doctrine of the resurrection. No doubt, most of us think of the physical, bodily resurrection that will occur at the return of Jesus Christ. However, in John 5:24-25, Jesus said that the time then was that those who would hear the words of Jesus (the context showing the idea of receiving and believing the Word) would be raised from their deadness to new life.

When we understand that before salvation, we are dead in trespasses and sins, because in Adam all died (1 Cor. 5:22), and we need a resurrection—a spiritual resurrection.

That is precisely what the passage of our sermon today is about. The key, or one of the keys, to understanding this is in verse 8, they were raised physically, but without the Spirit. They were still not alive. All this pointing to the reality that was foremost in the mind of God for the need of His people—that there must be a spiritual resurrection.

The state of mankind as a whole was being played out in the history of Israel. They were set in Canaan (an Edenic garden), but rebelled (they sinned), and were sent into exile (banished from the garden). Many of the Minor Prophets pick up on this picture (a motif or microcosm), like in Hosea 6:7.

That was the state of old Israel, in exile in Babylon. The only hope was a New Covenant, the Eternal Covenant. In fact, the chapter just previous, God speaks of the New Covenant (cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:7-12 and 10:16-17).

In the near horizon of Ezekiel's day, they would have read Ezekiel's prophecy with thoughts of national regathering and being brought back from Babylon. However, the new covenant was not established at that time.

Indeed, the prophecy of Daniel declared that the Jews would return to the land of Palestine in 70 years, but they would still be in exile! Daniel was confused! How could they return and still be in exile? Still be in Covenant death? How can both be true? Because without the Spirit, we are all in exile—dead in trespasses and sins.

When this passage is interpreted by the power of the Gospel and in light of our Lord Jesus Christ, it illuminates, elevates, and fills our understanding of the passage. We'll talk about this in the Sermon, but it's so important to think about, let's introduce the truth now. The specific prophecy of Ezekiel is ultimately fulfilled at the sin-conquering, Satan-slaying victory of Jesus upon the Cross, where the picture of fulfillment was given in Matthew 27:50-53).

As one commentator details:

Matthew's narration of the resurrection of the saints is congruent with the other scenes, and to contend for the historical plausibility of one is to argue for them all. Recalling the imagery of Ezekiel, who prophesied that the sovereign Lord would open graves and resurrect people to life in the valley of dry bones (Ezek. 37:11-14), Matthew lets this event stand unadorned because its meaning is clear.

Michael Wilkins

Another wonderful connection can further be made in Acts 2, where The Spirit descends with a great noise, and a nation, the New Israel by faith in God, is born in a day. Indeed, Paul calls all who believe true Israel—"The Israel of God." (Gal. 6:16, cf. Rom. 2:28-29)

God's Covenant with people through the finished work of Jesus Christ is the eternal covenant which gives us the resurrection that assures us we need not fear death. God has done this to redeem a people unto Himself. That's what Christmas is all about.

It's all about how Jesus loves you!

Prayer Request Updates

Our Nation – Protection, healing, and especially turning to the Lord Jesus.	Coronavirus victims and those grieving over the loss of loved ones.
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New Life

1. How can I change the kind of person I am?
2. How can I become a better person?
3. Can God really change me?
4. What happens to me when I become a Christian?
5. Does God remember all my old sins even after I confess them?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Psalm 40:3
- Ezekiel 11:19
- Romans 6:4
- Romans 7:6
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Galatians 6:15
- Ephesians 2:15
- Ephesians 4:24
- Colossians 3:10

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

These verses are about starting over. When we believe in Jesus and confess our sins to him it's like starting over clean and fresh. We get a wonderful new beginning. If you believe in Christ, never give up hope—he has made you all new.

Sermon Points on James 1

1. The Deadly Power of Sin (1-3)
2. The Divine Preaching of Scripture (4-8)
3. The Indispensable Presence of the Spirit (9-10)
4. The Determined Prophecy of Salvation (11-14)

Questions and Concepts

1. What does the Lord command Ezekiel to do in [37:4-6](#)?
2. In connection with this command, what is the significance of the “recognition formula” in [verse 6](#)?

Breath ([37:5](#)). The Hebrew word here (*rûah*) is used ten times in [37:1-14](#), though it is translated variously as breath, wind, and spirit. The breath of God is His Holy Spirit, who gives life to the dead.

3. What happens in [37:7-8](#)?
4. What does the Lord command Ezekiel to do in [37:9](#)?
5. What then happens in [37:10](#)?
6. How does the Lord interpret these things in [37:11-14](#)?
7. In connection with these things, what is the significance of the “recognition formula” in [verses 13 and 14](#)?

Flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them ([37:8](#)). When God makes the first man in [Genesis 2](#), He first forms the man from dust and then breathes into him the breath/Spirit of life.

Navigators