

God's Presence with His People

God delights in dwelling among his people, but in a vision, God shows Ezekiel one of the most painful consequences of Israel's unholy ways: God's glory must depart from Israel's midst. Studying this vision gives us the opportunity to reflect on the relationship between our behavior and God's reputation. It also reminds us that God does not leave us without hope. Even as God grieved and gave Ezekiel a painful message about consequences, he promised his glory would one day return and dwell among his people again. A promise we now know God kept in Jesus Christ and continues to keep through the presence of the Holy Spirit today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- In what ways does the Bible describe the presence of the Lord or the glory of the Lord?
- Scripture shows us that God delights in dwelling with his people. What does this truth reveal to you about God's character?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God's Presence with His People](#)

READ [Ezekiel 10-11, 36](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflect on [Psalm 86:15](#), "But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." Where do you see these aspects of God's character demonstrated in Ezekiel's message to the Israelites?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee says "We are supposed to represent Jesus today, just as Israel was supposed to represent Yahweh, the God of Israel, then; but we forget, too. Israel forgot, and we sometimes forget...sometimes we worry more about the Church's reputation than Jesus'; and what this passage reminds us of is that we should be more concerned with what people think of Jesus than what they think about our Church, because when the Church messes up, we bring Jesus down..." What is the difference between the Church's reputation and Jesus' reputation? Do you agree or disagree with Scott's statement? If you agree, when have you seen this happen? If you don't agree, why not?
- Israel was supposed to be God's holy people, set apart and a beacon of light showing other nations the way to God. However, their unholy behavior made them look just like any other nation and it tarnished God's holy reputation. Read [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#). What parallels or similarities do you see between the Apostle Paul's message to believers in this passage and God's message to the Israelites in [Ezekiel 36:17-38](#)? How is it different? Does it encourage you, why or why not?
- What does it mean to you that God, even as he details the consequences of Israel's actions, offers hope and a promise to return and dwell with his people again? What does this reveal to you or affirm for you about God's character?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Exodus 40:33-38](#), [1 Kings 8:6-13](#), [Deuteronomy 28](#), [Psalm 86:15](#), [Proverbs 22:1](#), [Exodus 32:11-4](#), [Romans 8:31-39](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#), [John 1:14](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on host Darrell Delaney's closing words.

“We are the ones who carry his [Christ's] presence...So, it is as if Christ's hands and feet—his presence—are there when we go into these places, and we need to do the best we can to bring glory and honor to his name; and thanks to the Holy Spirit, we have the power to do that; and we bear the fruit of the Spirit every single day when we do what he calls us to do; and we are glad that we have the opportunity to do that.”

We carry the presence of Christ in us wherever we go. How does, or should, that knowledge impact how you carry yourself and how you act each day? Conclude your reflection by praying the thoughts or feelings stirred in you to God.

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