

## A Heart that is New

Ezekiel 11: 14-23

6/22/03

### Intro

- Thank you to all who helped with the sanctuary

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The context of these verses is found in verse 15. While these first two groups of exiles were in Babylon, there were some of their brothers back in Jerusalem that were mean-spirited in their hearts about their brothers saying, "Go far from the Lord, the land belongs to us."

So God comforts them with these promises found in the verses we are studying today. These are some of the most important promises and prophesies for God's people.

*Today we will look for insights the promises of God that He will give them a new heart.*

### I. God will be a "little" sanctuary.

#### A. A place of refuge

- This is where we should flee to in danger

**Psalm 46:1**, "God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in times of trouble."

**Illus – When ships are beaten by storms, they look for safe harbor**

**Illus – When Joab was running from King Solomon, he ran to the temple. Men have often run into a church for protection.**

- Flee from sin to Jesus Christ.
- From a guilty conscience to His forgiving love

- From the accusations of Satan to the advocacy of Jesus Christ.
- Even flee from ourselves

### B. A place of worship

- The sanctuary was where God dwelled on the earth.

**Exodus 15:17**, "You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance, the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling, the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established."

- It was a representation of the sanctuary in heaven.
- We are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

**Illus – Wherever you are, that is a place of worship.**

### C. A place of quietness

- In the "Holy of Holies," there was quiet.

**Psalm 46:10**, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

- There is too much noise in our lives.

**Illus- Did God speak out of the storm, or the earthquake, no, God's voice was heard in the still, small voice.**

**Illus – Matt Redman's worship recording.**

## II. God will give them a new spirit

### A. They will have one heart

Vs 19

- They will all have one heart for the Lord
- One day the church which is Christ's will be completely in unity

**Illus – Worshipping in the coliseum; a taste of heaven.**

### B. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit

**Romans 8:16**, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

### C. He leads us by the Holy Spirit within us

**Romans 8:14**, “Those who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.”

- The Holy Spirit within us is the quiet voice of the Lord, directing our lives.
- We often say, “Let peace be your guide.”

## III. God will give them a heart of flesh

Vs 19

### A. He will remove the heart of stone

- Stone is hard –

**Illus – like the hard soil in the parable of the sower.**

- Stone is cold – it doesn't care for anyone or anything, but itself.
- Stone is unresponsive to the things of God.

**Exodus 35:21**, “And everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments. Then all whose hearts moved them....”

### B. A heart of flesh is alive

- A heart of flesh is soft – teachable.
- Love is there, because the Spirit of God is there
- Compassion is there because our heart is to be like His heart

### C. God's word is written on their hearts

- That they would want they things of God in their lives

Vs 20

- This is when God takes first place in their lives

**Vs21** – the hearts of the other went after the things of the world

Conclusion

**“What can be done with an old heart like mine?”**

**Illus – Keith Green's song, “My eyes are dry.”**

