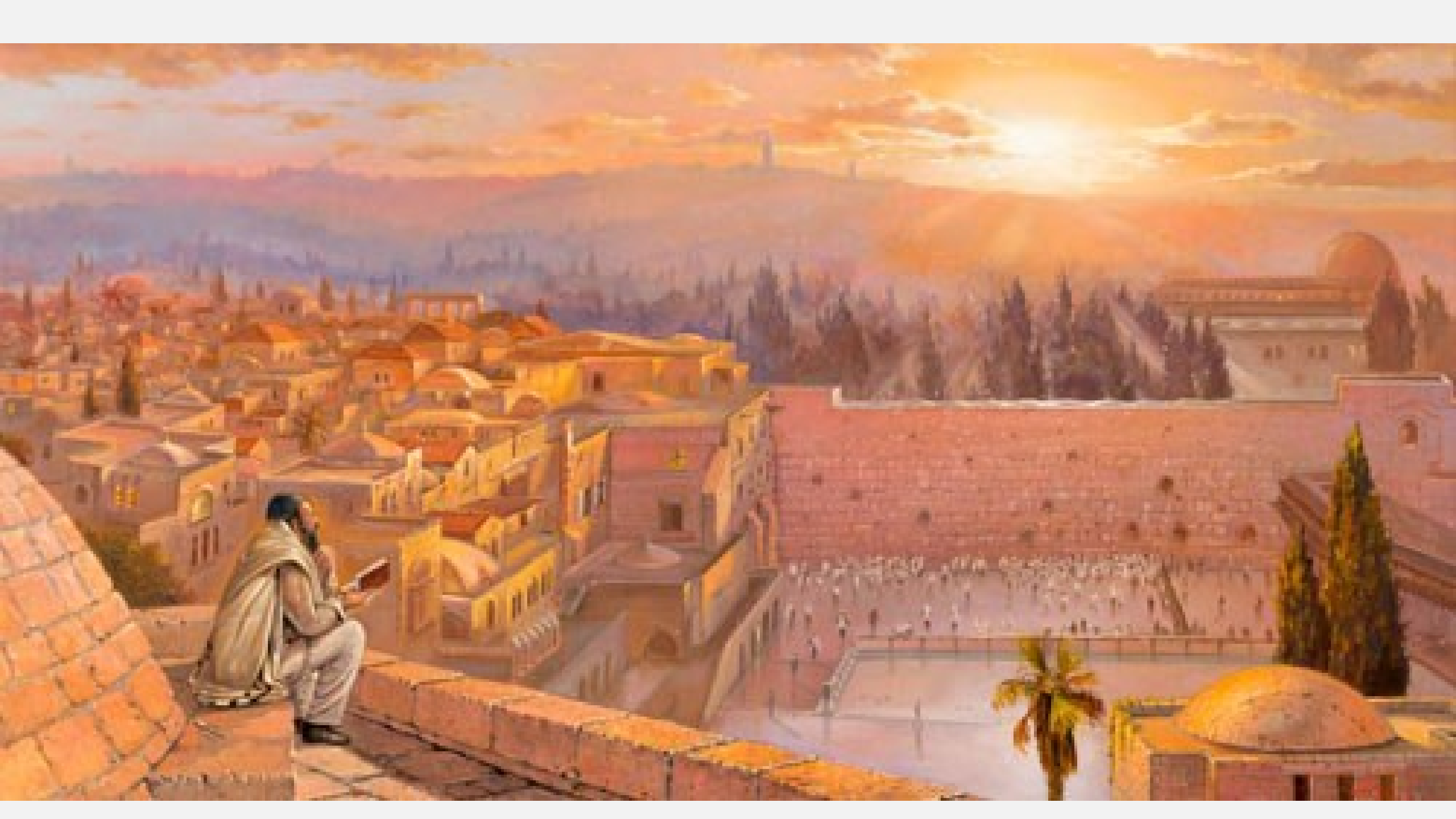


**A NEW HEART - EZEKIEL 36**



## EZEKIEL 36:16-21

Again the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight. So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols.

I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, ‘These are the Lord’s people, and yet they had to leave his land.’ I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.

## EZEKIEL 36:21

I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned (*crucified*) among the nations where they had gone.

## WHY WORSHIP GOD?

God wants us to worship Him because it is good for us

because he loves us

## EZEKIEL 36:22-23

“Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.

I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

## JESUS, WHO'S FAULT IS IT?

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him.

(John 9:2-3)

## THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM

“the line separating good and evil passes not through states,  
nor between classes, nor between political parties either --  
but right through every human heart -- and through all  
human hearts”

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



## EZEKIEL 36:24-27

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

## GOD'S PLAN

1. Call out a people (again)
2. Cleanse from past sin
3. Create a new heart
4. Fill with his Spirit

## SIN MANAGEMENT

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

Galatians 3:1-3

## EZEKIEL 36:28-32

Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

## GOD'S PLAN

1. Calling out a people: Church - ekklesia (called-out ones)
  2. Forgiveness from the past
  3. Strength to overcome today
  4. Spirit as a promise of future grace