

## 2020.10.11 Sunday Sermon <God of Restoration>

### **Psalm 115:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> All you Israelites, trust in the Lord— he is their help and shield.

<sup>10</sup> House of Aaron, trust in the Lord— he is their help and shield.

<sup>11</sup> You who fear him, trust in the Lord— he is their help and shield.

### **Ezekiel 36:32-38**

<sup>32</sup> 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! <sup>33</sup> “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. <sup>34</sup> The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. <sup>35</sup> They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.” <sup>36</sup> Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.’ <sup>37</sup> “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Once again I will yield to Israel’s plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep, <sup>38</sup> as numerous as the flocks for offerings at Jerusalem during her appointed festivals. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

#### \*Image of Rainbow Colors

- Many times in the Bible, the Lord is referenced as the light.
- We sometimes define light through a dispersive prism to break white light up into its constituent spectral colors or the colors of the rainbow.
- Among these spectral colors, I feel as though the color green represents God's restoration the best.

In Ezekiel chapter 36, we read about how Israel's restoration was assured by God. Just as the Lord gave hope and restoration for the Israelites, His restoration continues. He is within us and watching over us.

### **1.What is the Object of God's Restoration?**

- **Ezekiel 36:34**

<sup>34</sup> The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.

In this verse, we see how the Lord restores the land, which also means the environment.  
He restores by cultivating the land.

- **Ezekiel 36:35**

<sup>35</sup> They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.”

He will make the environment to be like the Garden of Eden.

- In following verses, we see the details of how God restores the land for His people.

- **Ezekiel 36:8**

<sup>8</sup> “But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home.

- **Ezekiel 36:11**

<sup>11</sup> I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

- **Ezekiel 36:14**

<sup>14</sup> therefore you will no longer devour people or make your nation childless, declares the Sovereign LORD.

- Let's take a look of two maps representing United States.
  - Recently in all the news, we see multiple maps of U.S filled with red dots. These dots are representing all of the people with COVID-19 cases.
  - Previous to this virus, we were used to seeing a map that indicates different typographies of U.S.
  - And just as the Lord restored the land for Israelites, He will restore the land of United States again.
  - He will turn the map that was filled with color red into the map that is filled with color green.
- Aside from restoring the environment, the Lord also restores His people.
  - **Ezekiel 36:25 (Clean)**  
<sup>25</sup> *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.*
  - **Ezekiel 36:26 (Tender)**  
<sup>26</sup> *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.*
  - **Ezekiel 36:27 (Obedient)**  
<sup>27</sup> *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

He will restore us to be clean like the child, have tender hearts to become more obedient so that he will pour His Spirit onto us.

- Story of Anne Sullivan Macy and Helen Keller -  
 A little girl was quarantined in a basement of Boston ward. She was suffering from severe mental health. It was difficult for people to approach her due to her rough behavior. The doctors tried different recovery methods but nothing was working. At the end even the parents gave up. However, one of the nurses approached the girl and showed true love of Jesus Christ for six straight months. Slowly the girl's heart changed and her mental health was restored. As the girl gained her health, she wanted to dedicate her life healing others with mental illness. This is the story of Anne Sullivan Macy, the nurse who lead Helen Keller into the world.

## **2.What is the Reason of God's Restoration?**

- For the name of God, who keeps His promises. This is shown through verses 23 and 36.
  - **Ezekiel 36:23**  
<sup>23</sup> *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.*
  - **Ezekiel 36:36**  
<sup>36</sup> *Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.*
- **Deuteronomy 31:6**  
<sup>6</sup> *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Through Moses, the Lord spoke to the Israelites and said to them that he will never leave them nor forsake them. Just as He kept His promise to the Israelites, He will keep His promise to restore us and change the environment we are currently in.

## **3.What is My Job During God's Restoration?**

- While the Lord is at work, restoring the His people and the Land, what did he ask His people to do? Yet again...pray. He wants us to be closer to Him and not to forget about Him. This is shown through verses 37 and 38,

- **Ezekiel 36:37**  
*"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Once again I will yield to Israel's plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep,*
- **Ezekiel 36:38**  
*as numerous as the flocks for offerings at Jerusalem during her appointed festivals. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD."*
- Just as the Lord restored the Israelites, He also restored David. We can see this through book of Psalm, as David prays to the Lord and gives praise to Him.
  - Psalm 39 - Restoration of Health
  - Psalm 51 - Restoration of Joy
  - Psalm 60 - Restoration of Peace
- Story of Guidepost -  
 One Sunday morning in 1987, a fishing boat was overturned by a big wave. Royce, his wife, brother-in-law and his two friends were in the boat. They requested for rescue crew, but the radio was not working well. They all wore their life jackets and jumped out of the boat. They thought about what to do while waiting for rescue crew. Royce's wife said, "let's ask the lord to help us...let us pray." Royce's wife had better faith than him...it was also Royce's idea to skip church and go out for fishing that morning. Six hours later, their body temperatures dropped severely and several times helicopter went by without seeing them. At 4:30AM, a ship appeared and they were all rescued. When asked how the captain knew where to find them - the captain said, " the ship's automatic steering system was broken and it was about 10 degrees off the route...somehow he came to rescue them..."
- Story of John and His Teacher -  
 John Wanamaker, the king of the department store, was working as the head of a Sunday school. Among the students, there was a kid name John. He was a problem child, and all the teachers wanted him to leave the school. However, one female teacher decided to take John to her class. One day, John was behaving poorly - he started to swear and spit on the teacher's face. The teacher called John and asked him to come to her house since she has a gift for him. John came to her house, and the teacher gave him a pretty vest. Inside the gift box, there was a letter. In the letter, the teacher wrote, " John, I love you. Never leave the Sunday school. Remember that I pray for you every day." The next day, John kneeled and started to cry in front of the teacher's house.

Remember...the Lord will restore us just as He restored John.  
 While He restores us...we must pray continuously.

#### <In Summary>

1. What is the Object of God's Restoration? Environment & People
2. What is the Reason of God's Restoration? His Great Name & His Will
3. What is My Job During God's Restoration? Pray

#### <Prayer>

*Earthly friends may prove untrue, Doubts and fears assail  
 Though the sky be dark and dreary, Fierce and strong the gale,  
 In life's dark and bitter hour, Love will still prevail  
 Trust His everlasting power, Jesus will not fail.  
 Heaven and earth may pass away, But Jesus never fails.*