

ACCOUNTABILITY FINAL DAY

March 31 Su Reading 90 — Psalm 105:37-45 — Rescued by a Promise

- ³⁷ *Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold,
and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.*
- ³⁸ *Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.*
- ³⁹ *He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.*
- ⁴⁰ *They asked, and he brought quail,
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.*
- ⁴¹ *He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.*
- ⁴² *For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.*
- ⁴³ *So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.*
- ⁴⁴ *And he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,*
- ⁴⁵ *that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.*
Praise the LORD!

Holy Promises — Like yesterday's reading, this psalm goes back to Israel's rescue from Egypt. It was so miraculous that the Egyptians were glad to see them go (v. 38). God provided everything they needed: light at night, quail and bread to eat, and water to drink in the dry desert (vv. 39-41). The next verse adds something new: "...*he remembered his holy promise*" (v. 42). This is the only place in the OT that a promise is called "*holy*." The promise to Abraham was holy because a holy God had made it. All of God's promises are holy; they are reliable because of who He is. He had promised Abraham innumerable descendants and a Promised Land. When they crossed the Red Sea, there were over 600,000 men who were Abraham's descendants, and 40 years later, their descendants were in the Promised Land. Although Abraham never saw the fulfillment of all those promises, except for his descendants Isaac, Jacob, and Esau, he had faith that the rest would come to pass. For centuries after that, God sent prophets to Israel to make another promise: the Messiah would come. Those prophets never saw its fulfillment, but it happened when the Son of God came to earth. Before Jesus left, He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit, and on the Day of Pentecost after His departure, Spirit-filled Peter preached that Jesus was "*exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out...*" (Acts 2:33). We have also received that holy promise, the promised Holy Spirit. The holy God makes only holy promises.

Here is a chorus I used to sing as a child:

[Every Promise in the Book Is Mine - YouTube](#)

Ev'ry promise in the book is mine,
Ev'ry chapter, ev'ry verse, ev'ry line;
All are blessings of His love divine,
Ev'ry promise in the book is mine.

— Traditional

ACCOUNTABILITY FINAL DAY! If you have not yet reported for this month, please let me know your reading status today at accbibleread@gmail.com.

April 1 M Reading 91 — Ezekiel 8:1-6 — Vision of Abominations

¹ *In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there. ² Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man.^[fn] Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal.^[fn] ³ He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. ⁴ And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.*

⁵ *Then he said to me, “Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy.*

⁶ *And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations.”*

ESV Footnotes

(8:2) By revocalization (compare Septuagint); Hebrew *of fire*

(8:2) Or *amber*

Seeing God's Perspective — The fact that the elders of Judah had come to Ezekiel's house to consult him says much about their respect for him and their acknowledgement that he was a genuine prophet of God. In apparent direct response to their desire, “*the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon*” Ezekiel (v. 1) and he saw God's appearance in a vision. Ezekiel said that when the hand of God reached out to take a lock of his hair, “*the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem*” (v. 3). These two actions, the Father grasping and the Spirit lifting, show the oneness of the Godhead. Ezekiel's lifting by the Spirit was more likely virtual rather than the possible literal transportation in yesterday's reading, which can be seen as the vision description continues through the rest of this chapter. Ezekiel's transportation to Jerusalem was probably more like Paul's experience that he described as being “*caught up to the third heaven— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know*” (2 Cor. 12:2). The cultic images Ezekiel saw in this vision of Jerusalem's temple, about five years before it was destroyed, was the evidence God wanted the elders sitting before Ezekiel to know, i.e., how far away from God Jerusalem's religious leaders had gone, and how justified God was in judging their actions through the destruction of the temple. That vision gave insight into the mind of God and the reasons why that which He does is completely justified. The Holy Spirit sometimes gives us that kind of insight as we read the Bible and wonder, “Why did God do that?” He also sometimes reveals to us reasons for how God might be allowing us to go through certain difficulties in life. God is always good, and He is always right. When the Holy Spirit gives us a view from the divine perspective, we will understand and agree.

[We'll Understand it Better By and By - YouTube](#)

Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed Promised Land;
But He'll guide us with His eye,
and we'll follow till we die;
We will understand it better by and by.

By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We will tell the story how we've overcome;
We will understand it better by and by.

— Charles Tindley (1905)

April 2 Tu Reading 92 — Ezekiel 11:1-25 — Judgment for Israel's Leaders

¹ *The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east. And behold, at the entrance of the gateway there were twenty-five men. And I saw among them Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.* ² *And he said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and who give wicked counsel in this city; ³ who say, 'The time is not near^[fn] to build houses. This city is the cauldron, and we are the meat.'* ⁴ *Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man."*

⁵ *And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind. ⁶ You have multiplied your slain in this city and have filled its streets with the slain. ⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of it, they are the meat, and this city is the cauldron, but you shall be brought out of the midst of it. ⁸ You have feared the sword, and I will bring the sword upon you, declares the Lord GOD. ⁹ And I will bring you out of the midst of it, and give you into the hands of foreigners, and execute judgments upon you. ¹⁰ You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel, and you shall know that I am the LORD. ¹¹ This city shall not be your cauldron, nor shall you be the meat in the midst of it. I will judge you at the border of Israel, ¹² and you shall know that I am the LORD. For you have not walked in my statutes, nor obeyed my rules, but have acted according to the rules of the nations that are around you."*

¹³ *And it came to pass, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell down on my face and cried out with a loud voice and said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"*

¹⁴ *And the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁵ "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, ^[fn] the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.'* ¹⁶ *Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while^[fn] in the countries where they have gone.'* ¹⁷ *Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'* ¹⁸ *And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. ¹⁹ And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove*

the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,²⁰ that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.²¹ But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will^[tn] bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.”

²² Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. ²³ And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city. ²⁴ And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles. Then the vision that I had seen went up from me. ²⁵ And I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.

ESV Footnotes

(11:3) Or *Is not the time near... ?*

(11:15) Hebrew *the men of your redemption*

(11:16) Or *in small measure*

(11:21) Hebrew *To the heart of their detestable things and their abominations their heart goes; I will*

The Spirit Speaks — Three actions of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in this passage. Two of them involve the kinds of travel we have seen before: “*The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate*” of Jerusalem (v. 1) and “... *the Spirit lifted me up and brought me ... into Chaldea*” (v. 24). The third action of the Holy Spirit in this passage caught my attention; it was how He spoke to Ezekiel: “...*the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, ‘Say, Thus says the LORD ...’*” (v. 5). We read something similar earlier (March 27), but it was unclear as to whether it was the Father speaking or the Holy Spirit. In Ezek. 1:28, Ezekiel saw “*the likeness of the glory of the LORD ... and I heard the voice of one speaking.*” The next two verses (2:1-2) add that “*he said to me ... I will speak with you. And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me ... and I heard him speaking to me.*” Here, it sounds like both the Father and the Spirit were speaking to Ezekiel. On March 28, we read that “*the hand of the LORD was upon me there. And he said ... But the Spirit entered into me ... and he spoke with me and said to me...*” (Ezek. 3:23-24). It is not entirely clear, but it seems that both the Father and the Holy Spirit were speaking. Both were involved as possible speakers in the March 29 reading, too, where “*the hand of the Lord GOD ... took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up ... Then he said to me ...*” (Ezek. 8:1, 3). In today’s reading, however, it seems clear that the Holy Spirit spoke directly to Ezekiel: “*The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate ... And he said to me...*” (11:1-2) and in verse 5, “*And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me ...*” We see in these examples both the oneness of Yahweh and a distinction within the Godhead. The Spirit audibly spoke to people in the Old Testament. That seems to say to me that the Spirit is personal rather than only a mystical or ethereal Being that is difficult to identify or comprehend. We will see more evidence of the Spirit speaking to people when we get to the New Testament. The Holy Spirit speaks to people even today, perhaps in a different way.

[Lord, You Sometimes Speak in Wonders - YouTube](#)

Lord, You love to speak in Scripture:
words that summon from the page,
Shown and taught us by Your Spirit
with fresh light for every age.

— Christopher Idle (b. 1938)

April 3 W Reading 93 — Ezekiel 36:22-32 — It Is Not for Your Sake

²² “*Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the*

nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.^[fn] ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. ³² It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

ESV Footnote

(36:27) Or my just decrees

Indwelt for Glory — This passage is bracketed by similar statements: “*It is not for your sake ... that I am about to act...*” (v. 22), and “*It is not for your sake that I will act...*” (v. 32). What God was going to do was to perform a long-term restoration of Israel. It would begin with returning them from a 70-year exile in Babylon to the Promised Land. It would continue with a new desire to follow God: “*I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you*” (v. 26). It would end with the Holy Spirit being placed in the hearts of people who recognized and accepted Jesus as the Messiah: “*And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes...*” (v. 27). That relationship would then spread to Gentiles around the world, so that we have become part of that fulfilment. Please don’t miss the purpose for all of this: “*It is not for your sake,*” rather it is for the glory and honor of Yahweh. We benefit greatly from it, but it is meant to cause God to be recognized and honored for who He is. The indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to walk in the Father’s way and to point all glory to Him.

[All Glory, Laud, and Honor - YouTube](#)

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

— Theodulf, Bishop of Orleans (820 AD)

April 4 Th Reading 94 — Ezekiel 37:1-14 — The Valley of Dry Bones

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley,^[fn] it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath^[fn] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling,^[fn] and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

ESV Footnotes

(37:1) Or *plain*; also verse 2

(37:5) Or *spirit*; also verses 6, 9, 10

(37:7) Or *an earthquake* (compare 3:12, 13)

Breath of God — We saw a month ago in reading Ps. 104:30 that the same Hebrew word (*rûah*) can be translated as “*breath*” or “*Spirit*,” depending on the context. We see that again in today’s passage, where *rûah* appears 10 times, translated as “*breath ... wind ... Spirit*.” Here the Holy Spirit again transports Ezekiel, in a new vision, to see a valley of dry bones. It depicts the exiles’ opinion of their hopeless state, what they consider to be the death of their country. The vision demonstrates that nothing is impossible with God and that He will keep His promises. The bones are miraculously put together, and muscles, flesh, and skin are applied, but the bodies are still dead. Finally, physical breath made the difference for the corpses. In a similar way, the Breath of God, the Holy Spirit, makes the difference for a spiritually dead person. The vision concludes with this promise to Israel: “*I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land*” (v. 14). Those exiled Jews would be allowed to return to the Promised Land after 70 years, and the nation would be restored, without a king, while it awaited the introduction of the promised Messiah, Jesus. After His death and resurrection, God breathed on Israel in a new way, through the Holy Spirit, who was made available to dwell within both Jews and Gentiles who accepted Jesus as their Savior. The nation of Israel was not only restored as promised in this vision, but the church was also born, all accomplished by the Breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

[Breathe on Me, Breath of God - YouTube](#)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
and do what Thou wouldst do.

— Edwin Hatch (1878)

April 5 F Reading 95 — Ezekiel 39:25-29 — Promised Pouring

²⁵ “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. ²⁶ They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to

make them afraid, ²⁷ when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. ²⁸ Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. ²⁹ And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”

Poured-out Spirit — We come today to another of several OT prophets that report God’s promise to pour out the Holy Spirit on His people (“...when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD”—v. 29). Here, it is in the context of one of the benefits given after God would return the Jews from Babylon in His mercy, restoring their fortunes (v. 25), causing them to forget their past shame and treachery (v. 26), and bringing them to realize that God had accomplished it all (v. 28). The climax of His accomplishments would wait until after the Messiah came and fulfilled His purpose. That event would begin on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit would be exposed in Scripture to the greatest extent, when He was made available to all who would surrender to God in faith. It happened to over 3,000 individuals on that first day and has been spreading to millions of others for nearly 2,000 years. This “pouring” picture emphasizes its extent. Any Jew or Gentile who accepted the Messiah and His sacrifice would be indwelt and changed by the Holy Spirit.

[O Spirit of the Living God - YouTube](#)

O Spirit of the living God,
in all the fullness of Thy grace,
Where'er the foot of man has trod,
descend upon our apostate race.

O Spirit of the Lord, prepare
all the round earth her God to meet;
Breathe Thou abroad, like morning air,
till hearts of stone begin to beat.

— James Montgomery (1823)

April 6 Sa Reading 96 — Psalm 60:4-8 — His Holiness

⁴ You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the bow.^[fn] Selah

⁵ That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

⁶ God has spoken in his holiness:^[fn]
“With exultation I will divide up Shechem
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.

⁷ Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my scepter.

⁸ Moab is my washbasin;
upon Edom I cast my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”^[fn]

ESV Footnotes

(60:4) Or that it may be displayed because of truth

(60:6) Or *sanctuary*

(60:8) Revocalization (compare Psalm 108:10); Masoretic Text *over me, O Philistia, shout in triumph*

Spoken in Holiness — This is a psalm of David, under whose leadership Israel achieved its greatest territorial expansion. In spite of his conquests, however, he prayed for God to deliver them from opposition (v. 5). In response, God reminds David that He “*has spoken in his holiness*” (v. 6). Over 1000 years earlier, God promised Abraham that the land on which he stood in Canaan was to belong to his descendants (Gen. 12:7); it was the Promised Land. When God speaks “*in his holiness*,” He speaks with integrity. What He promises, He will perform. Our whole Bible has an abundance of fulfilled promises of God. How, then, could we doubt that His still-unfulfilled promises will come in His perfect timing? We have the promises of Jesus’ return and of our future in heaven. We can wait with joyful expectation that those promises, made “*in his holiness*,” will be fulfilled. How about the promises we make? Are they holy, i.e., set apart as being different from the world’s promises? Since we have been made holy by the indwelling presence of the Godhead, we should be known as those whose word is good, people who keep their promises because they were spoken in holiness.

[Standing on the Promises - YouTube](#)

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.

When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

— Russell Kelso Carter (1886)