

EZEKIEL

KEY VOCABULARY

Adoption

The legal process by which a person gives the status of son or daughter to another person who is not his or her child by birth. The NT uses the term to describe the act by which God makes believers his children through the atoning death and resurrection of his one and only true Son, Jesus (see Romans 8, Galatians 4).

Allegory

A story that communicates truth through a symbolic understanding of its literal meaning. In allegory, characters, objects, and actions specifically represent things from the parallel spiritual or moral context. An example (in addition to Ezekiel 23) is in Galatians 4, where Paul interpreted the true story of Hagar (Genesis 16-21) as an allegory to make a point about how the Sinai covenant differs from the new covenant in Christ.

Anoint

In Scripture, to pour oil (usually olive oil) on someone or something to set the person or thing apart for a special purpose. Anointing was performed for the high priest, for tabernacle vessels, for kings, and for prophets. The Hebrew word Messiah and its Greek equivalent Christ both mean “anointed one.”

Atonement

The reconciliation of a person with God, often associated with the offering of a sacrifice. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ made atonement for the sins of believers. His death satisfied God’s just wrath against sinful humanity, just as OT sacrifices symbolized death as payment for sin.

Consummation

In Christian theology, the final and full establishment of the kingdom of God, when the heavens and earth will be made new and God will rule over all things forever (2 Pet 3:13 and Revelation 11, 19-22)

Covenant

A binding agreement between two parties, typically involving a formal statement of their relationship, a list of stipulations and obligations for both parties, a list of witnesses to the agreement, and a list of curses for disobedience and blessings for faithfulness to the agreement. The OT is more properly understood as the old covenant, meaning the agreement established between God and his people prior to the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the new covenant (the NT).

Elder

A recognized leader charged with oversight of a community or organized body. In the NT, an officer in the local church (Acts 14:23 and 1 Tim 3:1-7) charged primarily with spiritual oversight.

Election

In theology, God’s sovereign choice of a people for redemption and eternal life. Also referred to as “predestination.”

End Times

A time associated with events prophesied in Scripture to occur at the end of the world and the second coming of Christ — also known as the “last days.” Because the early church expected the return of Christ at any time, the end times can refer to the period between Christ’s ascension and his return.



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Eternal Life

For believers, the new life that begins with trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and that continues after physical death with an eternity in God's presence, with resurrected and glorified bodies in the new heavens and the new earth.

Exile

Several relocations of large groups of Israelites/Jews have occurred throughout history, but "the exile" typically refers to the Babylonian exile, that is, Nebuchadnezzar's relocation of residents to the southern kingdom of Judah to Babylon in 586 BC. (Residents of the northern kingdom of Israel had been resettled by Assyria in 722 BC.) After Babylon came under Persian rule, several waves of Jewish exiles returned and repopulated Judah.

Glorification

The work of God in believers to bring them to the ultimate and perfect stage of salvation—Christlikeness—following his justification and sanctification of them (Rom 8:29-30). Glorification includes believers' receiving imperishable resurrection bodies at Christ's return (1 Cor 15:42-43)

High Places

Height may or may not have been a feature of these public sites where offerings were made to God or to false gods. Worshiping the Lord at a high place was legitimate before the time of the temple (1 Kgs 3:2, 4). Later, "high places," even those where the Lord was worshiped, were forbidden (2 Kgs 23:15). Worship was to take place only at the temple (see Deut 12:5-6 and 1 Kgs 9:3).

Justification

The act of God's grace in bringing sinners into a new covenant relationship with himself and counting them as righteous before him through the forgiveness of sins (Rom 3:20-26).

Oracle

From Latin "to speak." In the Bible, it refers to a divine pronouncement delivered through a human agent.

Redemptive History / History of Salvation

God's unified plan for all of history to accomplish the salvation of his people. He accomplished this salvation plan in the work of Jesus Christ on earth, by his life, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection (Eph 1:3-23). The consummation of God's plan will take place when Jesus Christ comes again to establish the "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet 3:13).

Sanctification

The process of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. This process begins immediately after regeneration and continues throughout a Christian's life.

Sanctuary

In the Bible, a place set aside as holy because of God's presence there. The inner sanctuary of the tabernacle (and later the temple) was called the Most Holy Place.

