

The Watchman #15
The Best of Restorations Results

Word

Scripture Reference

Ezekiel 47-48

Discussion Questions

1. How do people usually restore their relationship with a friend or loved one with whom they had a conflict?
2. Scripture talks about two types of restoration pertaining to your relationship with the Lord. One is *complete restoration* in your glorified state at the end of this life, and the other is *relational restoration* when you confess your sin and ask God for forgiveness, and you live a transformed life that enables you to enjoy close fellowship with Him. Seeking a restored fellowship with the Lord has several benefits:
 - a. **Result #1: Healing and blessing (ch. 47:1-11).** This passage is a picture of the life-giving nature of water that flows from God's millennial temple. The Dead Sea, a body of water so salty that nothing can live in it, will become fresh because of its source, which is the Lord. When God heals the land, blessings follow. He mends what is broken. Discuss how healing and blessings go hand in hand. What steps do you take to mend a relationship with God that is not right? Share how a broken relationship with the Lord that has been restored brought blessings in your life.
 - b. **Result #2: Conditioned only on one person (ch. 47:12).** Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their fruit will serve as food and their leaves as medicines for healing because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. In your life, the Lord is the only source of restoration. Give examples of actions/offenses that some people may find

difficult to forgive and so may result in relationships that are difficult to restore (in your family, work/school life). Discuss how this encourages your Christian walk: that your restoration to fellowship with God is His decision alone, and not a committee or through somebody else's approval. How does a restored relationship with the Lord affect your relationship with others and allow God's grace to shine?

- c. **Result #3: Promises fulfilled (ch. 47:13-48:29).** The reason why God is doing the restoration of His people is because of His promises thousands of years ago that the land will be allotted as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel. Non-Jewish Christians will receive inheritance as well. The many promises of God in the scriptures find fulfillment only when we are restored fully in our relationship and standing with God. Discuss why you cannot claim God's promises when you are living in sin. Is God obligated to bless you when you are not walking rightly with Him? The Israelites will receive their promises only after the nation turns back to God. What promises of God do you claim, and what are the conditions of those promises?
- d. **Result #4: Fellowship with God (ch. 48:30-35).** The name of the city in the millennium will be "The Lord Is there". Because of the restored relationship with God, you can fellowship with Him and say, "The Lord is there." Do you fear being transparent about your life (e.g. past misdeeds) because you are afraid to be judged by other people? How does knowing that God will forgive and accept you regardless of the seriousness of the sins you have committed encourage you in coming to God openly and without fear? Do you believe that when God forgives, He completely does so and will not use your forgiven sin to condemn you?

Walk

A restored relationship with God brings about many great results in your life. Restoration brings healing and blessing. It is conditioned only on One Person, which is the Lord. It results to fulfillment of God's promises, and it allows you to fellowship with Him. Would you beg someone whom you have a broken relationship with to restore that relationship with you? If you can do it with someone, how much more to God?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for how, in the book of Ezekiel, you have shown me Your holiness that I should never ignore. Thank you for the promise of the new temple, the new city and the new people in the millennium, which demonstrate Your Holiness. Thank You for Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross, that through Him I can have a restored relationship with You in spite of all my sins. Help me to live a life of a person who is not condemned, but a person who lives life joyfully and peacefully because of the fellowship I have with you as a restored person in your sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.