

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 36:26

Ezekiel was a prophet of God at a time when the future appeared bleak for the kingdom of Israel. Judah and the city of Jerusalem had recently been destroyed and many of the Israelites were exiled to Babylon. It was in this environment that Ezekiel communicated a message of hope for the future. In chapter 36, Ezekiel describes the restoration of Israel. And it begins with the heart.

Imagine living in this world with a damaged and diseased heart and the only way to continue to live is based on the hope of a donated heart. Unfortunately, somebody will have to die for you to receive a new heart. When you accept Jesus into your life, that is what happened. He suffered death, which is the necessary punishment for your sin, so that you could receive a new heart from Jesus. In Jewish theology, the heart describes the whole person. So, a new heart means that you would become a new person after you have placed your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. And, after receiving the heart of Jesus, you would conform to the will of God in the same manner that Jesus did.

Also, when Ezekiel states that they would receive a new spirit, it implies that the spirit will move them to act in a way that pleases God. For years the Israelites had lived immoral lives. They worshiped other gods and failed to follow the commands of Yahweh. Now imagine the world we live in today. It can be discouraging because the direction of our country seems to be falling away from God. It is easy to feel hopeless when looking to the future. But God gives us hope because He provided us with a new heart and spirit. You will not find your hope in government, groups, or other leaders. The hope we have can only be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Where do you place your hope? Are you able to focus on God's sacrifice of His Son so you can experience a new life?