



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDB9k\\_-5uVg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDB9k_-5uVg)

## **Week 1 .... Nov 25<sup>th</sup> '18**

Ezekiel lived among the Jewish exiles in various colonies near the Kebar River in Babylonia. The ruins of Jerusalem and its Temple lay over 500 miles away. Ezekiel brought God's message to His people at this difficult time. He helped them understand that although they were far from home, they did not need to be far from God.

### **Read Ezekiel 36:24-28**

- i) What evidence do you see of God's compassion in these verses?
- ii) What evidence have you seen of God's compassion for people who are far away from Him?
- iii) What does hard-heartedness to God look like – in both those who're not yet Christians, and those who are? What resources does God have available to us to change this situation?
- iv) How have the statements in 1 Peter 2:9-10 become true for us as followers of Jesus?
- v) In Ezekiel 48:35, what name is given to Ezekiel's vision of the new Jerusalem? What other events or prophecies from the Old Testament can you think of that help us understand a) the wonder of closeness with God b) our plight as rebellious people far from Him? What examples in the Old Testament can you think of where you see *God's pursuit* of those who are far from Him?

Thinking ahead to Christmas events & services, as well as to the Alpha Course starting on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, spend time asking God to lay on your hearts people who you could invite. Pray about these as a group. Pray for our nation that we would once again see a turning to God & revival of faith in Him.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30