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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

What is the Gospel? Understanding ALL of the Gospel: Part 3

TEACHING SUMMARY

The teaching presents the gospel through Deuteronomy 28–30, where obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings curse and exile. God's covenant instructions are near, accessible, and connected with life. The gospel is offered even to people who have experienced the consequences of rebellion.

Israel consists of twelve tribes. The House of Israel and House of Judah experienced separate exiles, and the teaching distinguishes the broader term Israel from the Jews of Judah. The scattered northern tribes became associated with the nations, while the southern tribes returned from Babylon.

Deuteronomy 30 describes repentance, restoration, regathering, heart circumcision, and forgiveness. Yeshua's mission to the lost sheep of the House of Israel belongs within this restoration, while the blessing of Abraham still reaches all nations.

The prophets describe Israel's scattering and future reunification. Ezekiel's two sticks picture Judah and Joseph becoming one people under one shepherd. The restored people will walk in God's statutes and keep His rules.

The new covenant is made with Israel and Judah. Its difference is not a new law, but God's law written on the heart, with His Spirit causing obedience. The covenant has begun through Messiah but awaits complete fulfillment at His return.

The teaching concludes that salvation's means has been accomplished through Yeshua, while the final gathering, resurrection, and completion of the covenant remain future. The gospel therefore includes repentance, forgiveness, obedience, restoration, and the promised kingdom.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Deuteronomy 28–30 presents blessing and curse in relation to covenant obedience.
- Israel includes twelve tribes.
- The House of Israel and House of Judah experienced separate exiles.
- Deuteronomy 30 promises restoration and heart circumcision.
- Yeshua was sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.
- Ezekiel's two sticks picture reunification.
- The new covenant writes God's law on the heart.
- The Spirit causes obedience to God's statutes.
- Messiah's work inaugurates the new covenant.
- The covenant's full completion awaits the future.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The covenant chapters examined are Deuteronomy _____–30.
2. The northern kingdom is called the House of _____.
3. The southern kingdom is called the House of _____.
4. Deuteronomy 30 says God will circumcise their _____.
5. Yeshua said He was sent to the lost _____ of the House of Israel.
6. Ezekiel's prophecy uses two _____ to picture reunification.

Challenging

1. The new covenant writes God's _____ within His people.
2. Ezekiel says God will put His _____ within His people.
3. The restored people will walk in God's _____.
4. The new covenant will be complete at Messiah's _____ coming.
5. The northern kingdom was taken captive by the _____.
6. The southern kingdom was exiled to _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Deuteronomy 28–30 define the gospel in relation to obedience and exile?

2. Why does the teaching distinguish Israel from the Jews?

3. How does the lost-sheep mission fit within restoration and blessing all nations?

4. What does Ezekiel's two-stick prophecy contribute to the gospel?

5. How is the new covenant different from the covenant Israel broke?

6. Why does the teaching describe the covenant as begun but not yet fully completed?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. 28 — Teaching section on Deuteronomy 28–30
2. Israel — Teaching explanation of the divided kingdom
3. Judah — Teaching explanation of the divided kingdom
4. hearts — Deuteronomy 30:6
5. sheep — Matthew 15:24
6. sticks — Ezekiel 37:15–28

Challenging

1. law — Jeremiah 31:33
2. Spirit — Ezekiel 36:26–27
3. statutes — Ezekiel 37:24; 36:27
4. second — Teaching explanation of Hebrews 9:28 and future fulfillment
5. Assyrians — Teaching historical summary of the northern kingdom
6. Babylon — Teaching historical summary of the southern kingdom

FACILITATOR DISCUSSION NOTES

Suggested responses follow the teaching. Invite discussion and personal application; these are not additional required answers.

1. Deuteronomy 28 describes blessings, curses and scattering; Deuteronomy 30:1–10 adds return, mercy, regathering and heart circumcision. The teaching presents restoration as good news even after rebellion. Include God's mercy and Messiah's atoning work rather than reducing the gospel to a reward for unaided performance.
2. The source distinguishes the twelve-tribe people from the narrower kingdom of Judah and uses that distinction in its restoration argument. It also acknowledges that the terms can sometimes be used interchangeably. Do not use the distinction to deny Jewish belonging to Israel or to make unsupported claims about anyone's ancestry.
3. Matthew 15:24 focuses on the lost sheep of Israel; Isaiah 49:6–7 extends the servant's mission to the nations. The source explicitly includes Gentiles with no historical link to either house. Ask how both restoration and wider inclusion contribute to its account of the gospel.
4. Ezekiel 37:15–28 depicts two sticks becoming one, one king, cleansing, covenant peace and God's dwelling among his people. The teaching understands this as future reunification under Messiah. Trace the promise from division to unity and note the associated call to walk in God's ways.
5. Jeremiah 31:31–34 promises law within the people, knowledge of God and forgiveness. Ezekiel 36:26–27 adds the new heart and Spirit enabling obedience. The teaching locates the difference in the people's renewal and the better promise, rather than in a replacement law.
6. The teaching says Messiah's atonement inaugurates the covenant and provides forgiveness now, while complete sanctification, resurrection and regathering await consummation. It cites Hebrews 9:28 and Jeremiah 31:34. Discuss present confidence and growth without implying that no one can receive forgiveness until the future.