

How is your heart?

Overview of the book of Ezekiel:

Chapters 1–24 proclaim the coming judgment on Jerusalem and its causes.

Chapters 25–32 announce judgment on the foreign nations.

Chapters 33–48 declare the blessings of future restoration and the messianic kingdom.¹

Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

What God says if you turn to Him

- I will give you a new heart – 36:26a *And I will give you a new heart,*
 - The new heart you need comes from God.

Heart: one's inner self, seat of feeling and emotions...inclination, disposition.²

New: being not previously present, *unknown, strange, remarkable* (Greek word in the Septuagint).³

How?

- I will replace your heart of stone with a heart of flesh – 36:26c *And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and [I will] give you a heart of flesh.*
 - The ability you need to obey God comes only from God.

- If God removes something, He has a far better replacement.
- I will put a new spirit (attitude) in you – 36:26b, 27a *and a new spirit I will put within you...And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes*
 - The attitude you need to glorify God comes only from God.
- Give you both an unprecedented challenge and support – 36:27b *and be careful to obey my rules.*
 - With a new heart and spirit (attitude), victory is possible.

Action steps

Connect Card: gograce.churchcenter.com/people/forms/114202

¹ Ralph H. Alexander, “Ezekiel,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 6 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986), 744.

² Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 514.

³ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 497.