

Drawing the line of your life

WE MIGHT WANT:

- MORE HIGHS, FEWER LOWS
- AN UPWARD SLOPE
- END ON A HIGH NOTE

BIRTH **DEATH**

HIGHS **LOWS**

BETTER **WORSE**

What is your line so far?
How do you make sense of your line?
How do we make sense of our line?

1

**The Line of Life
and
The Sphere of God**

Ezekiel 36:16-27

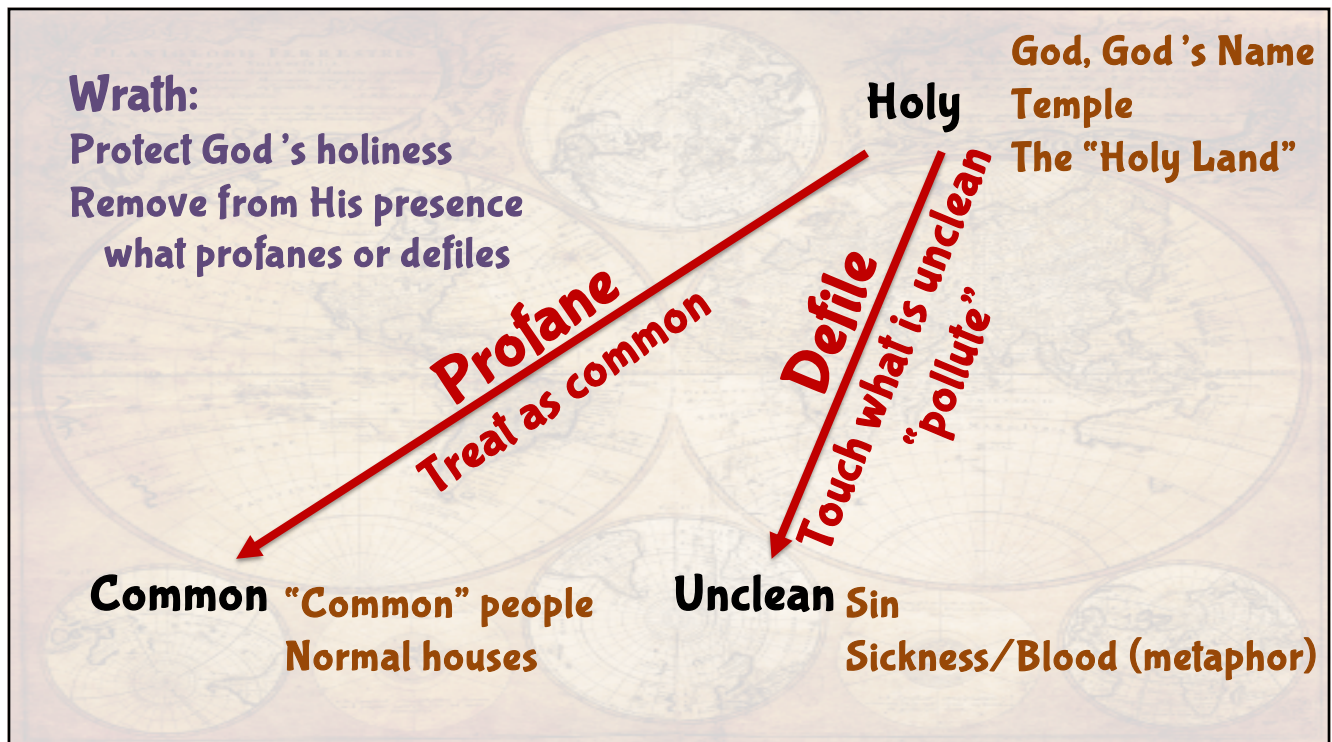
bib.ly/Ez36+NIV

2

A very brief history of the people of Israel

Abram 2100 BC	An ordinary man	No people	No land
Moses 1440 BC	A prophet	Many people	No land
David 1010 BC	A king	Many people	Blessed land
Zedekiah 586 BC	A dethroned king	Scattered people	No land
Ezekiel 571 BC	Prophet	Speaking to the scattered	

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

“Again the word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they **defiled** it by their conduct and their actions.’ ” *16-17a*

“I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions.” *19*

“I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have **profaned** among them.” *23*

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

- **Defile:** approach God when unclean
 - We tolerate sin and immorality
 - We see disloyalty to God as “not so bad”
- **Profane:** treat what is holy as if it were common
 - His commands are suggestions or something to consider
 - His opinion is one voice among many
 - His promises are weighed against likely scenarios
- **Wrath:** God protects His holiness by moving us away

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

24-27: God's action: Gather, cleanse, new heart, His Spirit

“ ‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will **gather** you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will **cleanse** you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 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. And I will **put my Spirit in you** and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.’ ” 24-27

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

24-27: God's action: Gather, cleanse, new heart, His Spirit

- **FROM** God: He is the **initiator** of our rescue
 - “I will gather you”
- **BY** God: He is the **implementer** of our rescue
 - “I will cleanse you” → Cleanse
 - “I will give you a new heart” → Sanctify
 - “I will put my Spirit in you” → Sanctify

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

24-27: God's action: Gather, cleanse, new heart, His Spirit

22-23: For God's holy name

"It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the **sake of my holy name**...

I will **show the holiness** of my great name....

Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when **I am proved holy** through you before their eyes."

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Ezekiel 36

16-23: The reason for the trouble:

The people **profaned** and **defiled** what is holy

24-27: God's action: Gather, cleanse, new heart, His Spirit

22-23: For God's holy name

- God rescues people to show His holiness
- Not because people deserve it

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This is the Gospel

In spite of us

God gives us a new heart **alive and thriving**
in place of our old heart **hard and cold**

in Christ

so we can be with God

and this is **FROM** God, **BY** God, and **FOR** God

Source

Means

Purpose

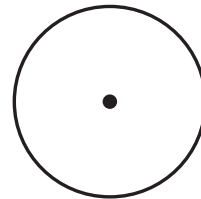
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What is a line (segment)? 

- All points on the shortest path between 2 points

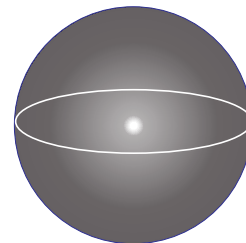
What is a circle?

- All points that are the same distance from another point



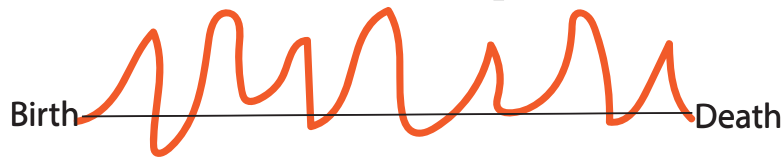
What is a sphere?

- All points that are the same distance from another point in 3 dimensions



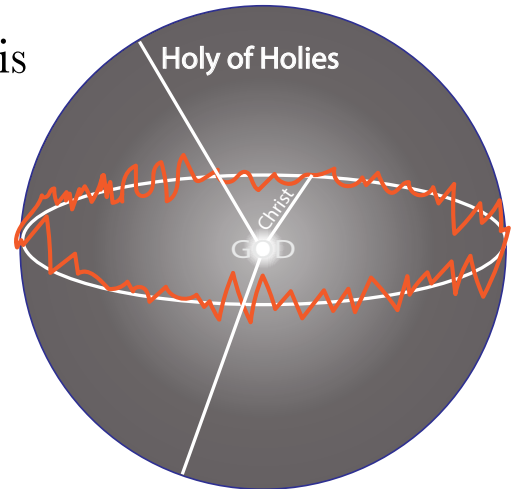
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Our lives: a line between 2 points: birth & death



If we are “in Christ”, our whole life is on the sphere of God’s presence

- Holy of Holies
- Sanctified and Purified
- Including all our ups and downs (including death itself)
- Until we are gathered into His glory forever



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Application

Treat God as holy

- He has authority, power, and glory beyond all else
 - He must never be **profaned** (treated as common)
- Nothing impure or sinful must ever come before Him
 - He must never be **defiled** (encounter the impure)
- Like trying to touch the sun, we cannot exist in the intensity of His holiness
- All who claim the name of Christ are held to this standard!

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Application

Treat God as holy

Receive grace, because we are not holy as He is holy

- We deserve His wrath
 - to be scattered from Him
- Yet God says, “I will gather...cleanse...give a new heart... put my Spirit in you...move you to obey”
 - This is grace:
a rescue that is FROM God, BY God, and FOR God
- Grace includes all these steps
 - We live in Christ by grace, from the start and forever

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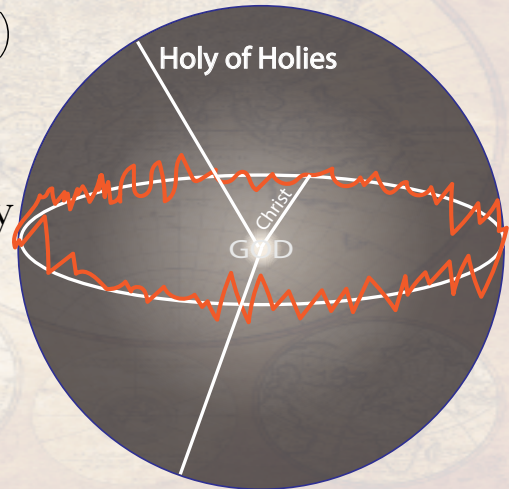
Application

Treat God as holy

Receive grace, because we are not holy as He is holy

All this is for the glory of His name

- Including all our lives (ups & downs)
- Life is not about us!
- It is about God
 - It is about His holiness and His glory
- By His generous love,
He gives us abundant life forever
in His glory



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This is the Gospel

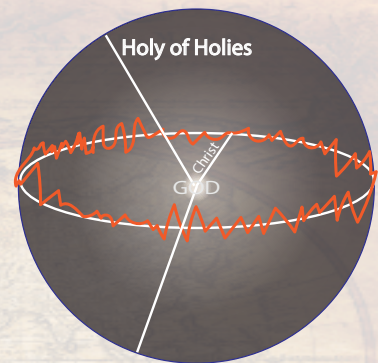
In spite of us
God gives us a new heart
in place of our old heart
in Christ

so we can be with God

and this is **FROM** God, **BY** God, and **FOR** God

How do you make sense of your line of your life?

- By seeing it all (money, time, reputation, relationships, ...) centered on the grace of our Holy God who rescues us for the honor of His name



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