

EZEKIEL 37:1-28 – “THE DRY BONES LIVE; ONE KINGDOM, ONE KING!”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

The Resurrection of the Nation – vs. 1-14:

Eze 37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

Eze 37:2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.

Eze 37:3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

Eze 37:4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'

Eze 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

Eze 37:6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD." ' ' "

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.

Eze 37:8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

Ez. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley and it was full of bones. He shows by a great miracle that God has power and will deliver his people from their captivity, in as much as he is able to give life to the dead bones and bodies and raise them up again.

Ez. 37:2 The valley which Ezekiel saw was filled with dead bones, and the thing which characterized them is that they were very dry and they were scattered.

Ez. 37:3 These bones scattered all over the place are human bones, and the question that is put to Ezekiel is, "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel answers, "O Lord GOD, You know." In other words, he said, "I don't see how they could. It's beyond me—You alone know whether these dead bones can live or not!"

Ez. 37:4 Prophecy to these bones - Declare to your miserable countrymen the gracious designs of the Lord; show them that their state, however deplorable, is not hopeless.

Ez. 37:5 Surely, I will cause breath - רוח *ruach* signifies both soul, breath, and wind; and sometimes the Spirit of God. Soul is its proper meaning in this vision, where it refers to the bones: "I will cause the Soul to enter into you."

Ez. 37:6 Then you shall know that I am the Lord — by the actual proof of My divinity which I will give in reviving Israel.

Ez. 37:7 noise — of the bones when coming in mutual collision. Perhaps referring to the decree of Cyrus, or the noise of the Jews' exultation at their deliverance and return. bones came together — literally, "Your bones came together"; as in Jer. 49:11 (*Hebrew*), "ye widows of thine shall trust in Me." The second person puts the scene vividly before one's eyes, for the whole resurrection scene is a *prophecy in action* to render more palpably to the people the prophecy in word (Eze 37:21).

Ez. 37:8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them,....* And they began to look like men, in the shape of men, and were a body of them, as the Jews did when gathered together: *and the skin covered them over;* and so looked comely and beautiful, as in the proper form of men; as did the Jews enriched and protected by Cyrus: and this may be an image of such persons so far wrought upon under the word as to look like Christians; to have the form of godliness, and appear outwardly righteous before men, submitting to ordinances, and performing the duties of religion; and yet no principle of spiritual life in them; but, like Adam's body, of the earth, earthly, and breathless, before the breath of life was breathed into it. reminded the prophet of the miserable condition of the people.

Ezekiel 37-48 - These closing chapters look forward to the future of Israel and Judah, to a time when God will do a new work and His glory will return to the land.

A. Revived (Eze 37:1-14)

At this time, both Israel and Judah were ruined politically. Assyria had scattered Israel, and Judah had just been captured by Babylon. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah predicted a return from captivity, but Ezekiel's vision goes even farther down the years. He saw the time when the dead nation would come alive again. In the vision, he saw very many bones in the valley (literally, "battlefield"), and the bones were very dry. It was a picture of utter defeat, with the bones of the armies bleached and unburied. What a vivid description of the Jewish people! Through the power of God's Word, the bones came together and formed men, and through the power of the Spirit ("wind"), life was given to them. This does not teach a bodily resurrection, or even the salvation of the Jews. Rather, it pictures the future revival of the *nation*, when the Jews will be brought up out of the "graves" of the Gentile nations where they have been scattered. Politically, this took place May 14, 1948, when the modern nation of Israel entered the family of nations again. Of course, the nation is dead spiritually; but one day when Christ returns, the nation will be born in a day and be saved.

B. Reunited (Eze 37:15-28)

The division of the nation into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms was the beginning of their downfall. One day God will reunite all the tribes under their true David, Jesus Christ. He will make a covenant of peace with them (Eze 37:26) and bring glory to His people once again.

Is there a future for Israel? Some say, "No, for all these OT prophecies must be applied *spiritually* to the church." We disagree!. These prophecies are too detailed to be "spiritualized" and applied to the church today. Jesus taught a future for the Jews (Luk 22:29); so did Paul (Rom 11:1-36); and so did John (Rev 22:1-6).

EZEKIEL 37:1-28 – “THE DRY BONES LIVE; ONE KINGDOM, ONE KING!”

OBSERVATION

Eze 37:9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Eze 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Eze 37:13 Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

Eze 37:14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.' "

THE REUNIFICATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE – vs. 15-28

Eze 37:15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 37:16 "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.'

Eze 37:17 Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

Eze 37:18 "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?'—

INTERPRETATION

Ez. 37:9 *The wind* - Rather, as in Eze 37:5. The bones are the bones of the “slain,” because the scene was one which was likely to occur in the time of the Chaldaean invasion, and the fact of violent death (Is. 43:5-6; Jer. 31:8-13)

Ez. 37:10 *And breath* - The spirit of life, or the soul, (Gen 2:7). (an exceeding great army Ps. 83; Ez. 38 & 39; Zech. 12:6??)

Ez. 37:11 *The whole house* - The emblem of the house of Israel. Are dried - Our state is as hopeless, as far from recovery, as dried bones are from life. – The holocaust

Ez. 37:12 *I will open* - Though your captivity be as death, your persons close as the grave, yet I will open those graves.

Ez. 37:13 *When I have opened your graves* - When I shall have done for you what was beyond your hope, and deemed impossible, then you shall know that I am Jehovah.

Ez. 37:14 *I will put My Spirit in you* - רוחי *ruchi*. Here *ruach* is taken for the Holy Spirit. They were living souls, animal and intellectual beings, when they had received their souls, as mentioned above: but they could only become spiritual, holy, and obedient creatures by the Spirit of God actuating their spirits.

Ez. 37:15 *Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,....*

Immediately or quickly after he had the above vision of the dry bones, and the explanation of it

Ez. 37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, which signifies the joining together of the two houses of Israel and Judah, and write upon it, - for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:

Ez. 37:17 *Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick*

,.... Clap the sticks, planks, boards, or tables, to one another; glue them together, or set them so close to one another, that they may seem as one stick, plank, board, or table.

Ez. 37:18 God does not explain the symbolical prophecy until the Jews have been stimulated by the type to consult the prophet.

APPLICATION

v. 9 Notice the Spirit that came into the bones.

v. 10 – the standing of the bones – an exceedingly great army

v. 11 – The situation indeed looks hopeless!

v. 12- Notice the three “I wills” – only God could bring these things to pass!

v. 13 - This appears to be a purpose which the Lord designed from eternity past.

v. 14 - When the LORD puts His Spirit in Israel, they will live and they will be placed in their own land!!

V 15. This appears to be another vision, but connected – “Again”

v. 16 – Judah and his companions – (2 Chron. 11;12-16; 15:9; 30:11, 18-20; 31:1) Also Joseph – there is no teaching of the so called “ten lost tribes”. Why is Ephraim mentioned and not Manasseh? Which side of the Jordan did Manasseh settle. Who controls that today?

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Eze 37:19 say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." '

Eze 37:20 And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

Eze 37:21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

Eze 37:22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

Eze 37:23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Eze 37:24 "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

Eze 37:25 Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

Eze 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

INTERPRETATION

Ez. 37:19 Say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD; Surely, I will take the stick of Joseph, that is, the house of Israel, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in my hand.

Ez. 37:20 *And the sticks on which you write*,.... Or are about to write the above things, according to order and direction: *will be in your hand before their eyes*; shall be held up to them to look at for some time, and observe the cement of the two sticks; and learn and lay up in their minds what is meant by this emblem; and be assured that what is hereafter said as a further explication of it shall certainly be fulfilled.

Ez. 37:21 *Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the Nations, wherever they have gone*, or, "from among the Gentiles"; not only the Chaldeans, where they were carried captives; but from among the nations where they are now dispersed, and among whom they go freely of their own accord from place to place, for the sake of traffic: and this phrase, "whither they be gone", or "are going" *and will gather them from every side*, or, "round about" (d); from the several parts of the world where they are: *and bring them into their own land*; the land of Canaan, given by the Lord to their fathers, and to them their posterity, for an inheritance; though now in the possession of others, who, it seems, are not the right owners.

Ez. 37:22 God will make them one nation.

Ez. 37:23 *but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places, in which they have sinned*; as wherever they dwell they do; they are notorious for their wickedness; but God will bring them out of all these places, where they have lived in sin, and been the occasion of it to some, as well as followed the example of others: *but I will cleanse them*; by sprinkling clean water upon them; by applying the blood of Christ to them, which cleanses from all sin see Eze 36:25,

Ez. 37:24 That one Shepherd is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. When He came, He was born in the line of David. The One that came in that line is the Shepherd, and He will rule over them. I personally believe that God will raise up David to reign over Israel, either in the Millennium or in the eternal Kingdom which will be ushered in immediately following the Millennium.

Ez. 37:25 *Jacob* means here the twelve tribes; and the land given to them was the whole land of Palestine; consequently, the promise states that, when they return, they are to possess the whole of the Promised Land.

Ez. 37:26 *My sanctuary* - I will set up a spiritual glorious temple, and worship among you. For evermore - Never to be altered or abolished on earth, but to be consummated in heaven.

APPLICATION

v. 19 – They will be united by the Lord – **“They will be one My hand”!**

v. 21-22 We see they will be gathered, actually re-gathered to their own land.

v. 23-25 Who is the “shepherd”, Who will rule them? Who has the ability to “cleanse” His people? (Ez. 36:25) Who will fulfill God’s Covenant to King David? (Mt. 1:1; Messiah Ben David) is always the Jewish reference to the Messiah!

General listing should be the son of Abraham, the son of David-the Messiah is the King! v. 17-fourteen generations mentioned three times. (from Abraham to David; David to Babylonian captivity; from Babylonian captivity to Jesus Christ!!) Fourteen mentioned three times! Why?

Fourteen in the Hebrew of the Messiah is the number 14. He is Ben David (#14) Why three generations? Messiah is 14, David is 14, the evidence by two witnesses is that Yeshua, the son of Joseph by adoption, the son of Mary by birth, from David through Nathan, therefore He becomes, by birth and by adoption- Ben David – the Son of David! So #1 – throne is established; #2 throne cast down #3 throne confirmed in coming of the Messiah (Ps. 89:20, 27-29, 34-37; 78:70-72; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; 16; Luke 1:31-33)

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Eze 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Eze 37:28 The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." ' ' "

Questions:

1. In the metal file box of the synagogue found on Masada, remnants of Scripture were found there. What portion of Scripture was it?
2. Are you certain that this chapter applies to Israel? How about it applying to the church?
3. How much of the prophesy given in chapter 37, has been fulfilled to date? What does May 14, 1948 bring to your mind?
4. Who or what do the “bones” represent? V. 11
5. The word, “breath” is used many times in verses 5-10. What is it in Hebrew? What is another word for “breath” that can be translated from the Hebrew?
6. In verses 16-20 two sticks are mentioned. Who do they represent. Why was Ezekiel told in verse 17 to make them into one stick?
7. What three “I will”s are mentioned in verse 23? How significant are those? Have they happened yet?
8. In verse 24, who is David My servant? How do we know for certain?
9. How long with God’s covenant of peace with Israel be? –see verse 26
10. Where will God set His sanctuary? For how long? Vs. 26 & 28

Ez. 37:27 *My tabernacle* - The tabernacle wherein I will show my presence among them. Their fathers had a tabernacle, but the Messiah shall bring with him a better, a spiritual, and an heavenly. They shall be my people - By my grace I will make them holy, as the people of a holy God; and I will make them happy, as the people of the ever blessed God.

Ez. 37:28 *The nations also will know that I the Lord, sanctify Israel,....* Or the Gentiles, the converted Gentiles, shall observe and take notice of the gracious dealings of God with his people the Jews; that he calls them with an holy calling; implants principles of grace and holiness in them; separates and consecrates them for his service, and enables them to walk holily, soberly, and righteously; *when My sanctuary is in their midst for evermore*; when his worship shall be set up among them; his Gospel shall be preached unto them, and received by them; and his ordinances administered unto them; and which shall continue till the second coming of Christ.

v. 28 So important to know the reference here to “My Sanctuary”. The Sanctuary that will be restored. (*Zech. 6:12-13*)

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, The spirit of life, or the soul, “lives”!! (Gen 2:7). What is the significance “breath” being plural? How important is it?