

Who is Israel?

Part 5

Ezekiel 37

Introduction: Last week we looked at the Valley of Dry Bones in Ezekiel 37. This is a picture of the blessings that are promised to the Jews that are recorded in Ezekiel 36. I want to just review what we considered last week just to be sure that we are all clear on the meaning.

Notice Ezekiel 37:1-8

This is the first gathering of Israel that is currently happening. It is the gathering in unbelief. This is NOT the gathering from the Babylonian captivity as many teach.

Notice Ezekiel 37:9-14

This is the second gathering that will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation. This will be after 2/3's will die in the Tribulation. This is the gathering in faith.

Israel's Two Regathering's

The Present (First) Regathering.

The Permanent (second) Regathering

Return to Part of the Land

Return to all of the Land.

Return in unbelief.

Return in faith.

Restored to land only.

Restored to land and the Lord.

Sets the stage for Tribulation.

Sets the stage for Millennium.

(discipline)

(blessings)

Chart by Randal Price

Last week we addressed the statement that is made today that says God cannot do anything with Israel because of their unbelief. But is that not when God began to work with us to bring us to saving faith? He works with unbelievers all the time and He is doing that with Israel today.

Notice Ezekiel 37:14 again.

I want you to notice here that God will place them in their OWN LAND. It is not the land of the Palestinians. It is the land of Israel. Ultimately it is God's land.

Joel 3:2

² I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

➤ **The Two Sticks**

Notice Ezekiel 37:16-20

The two sticks here represent the two kingdoms which Israel divided into. The northern kingdom, Ephraim, and the southern kingdom, Judah. What caused the nation to divide?

1 Kings 11:9-13

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

¹⁰ And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

¹¹ Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

¹² Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

¹³ Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

Solomon had turned away from God to idols and for this reason the kingdom was divided. God had warned the nation, and He had made it clear that the king was not above the Law.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

¹⁴ When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

¹⁵ Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

¹⁶ But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

¹⁷ Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

¹⁸ And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

²⁰ That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Notice Ezekiel 37:21-23

God will gather every tribe. This means there are no lost tribes as many people teach.

Luke 2:36

³⁶ And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity:

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Revelation 7:3-4

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Matthew tells us about the second gathering of the nation of Israel.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This is NOT the Rapture as many teach.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

This is NOT the same event as we read in Matthew 24. This is the Rapture of the church; Matthew 24 is the second/last gathering of Israel in faith.

This very scene was foretold by Isaiah.

Isaiah 27:12-13

¹² And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off [thresh out] from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

¹³ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Notice Ezekiel 37:22 again.

There will be one king who will rule over the nation in the Millennial Kingdom. Who is the king?

Notice Ezekiel 37:24-25

David will be the king that will rule over Israel. Does this really mean David? Yes, it does! We must understand this to be literal because we are not told otherwise. Notice what Ezekiel recorded earlier.

Ezekiel 34:23-24

²³ And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

²⁴ And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

Now there are people who will try their best to make David in this text to be Jesus Christ. But if you try that you are faced with a problem.

Notice Ezekiel 37:25 again.

David will be their prince forever.

Ezekiel 45:22-23

²² And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering.

²³ And seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bullocks and seven rams without blemish daily the seven days; and a kid of the goats daily for a sin offering.

If the prince is Jesus, then why does He need to bring a sin offering? **It this was referring to Jesus it would say, Root of David, Branch of David, Son of David, or Seed of David.**

Jesus will reign over the world and David will co-reign over Israel.

Notice Ezekiel 37:26-28

This will all be done to glorify God.

Conclusion:

We need to understand that Israel must exist, and they must be saved.

1. Israel will be the spiritual leader of the world in the Kingdom.

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Isaiah 61:6

⁶ But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Israel never fulfilled this appointed assignment, but they will in the Kingdom.

Zechariah 8:22-23

²² Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

2. The Kingdom will not come until Israel repents and accepts Jesus their King.

Matthew 10:5-7

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

⁷ And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.