

Who is Israel?

Part 4

Ezekiel 37

Introduction: Today in our study of Israel we are going to consider a message from Ezekiel 37. The passage before us is one that is very popular and at the same time it is often misunderstood. It is also used to distort the Truth concerning the nation of Israel.

Notice Ezekiel 36:24-28

This is God's Words of promise to the Jews who are in captivity. Then as we move to Ezekiel 37 God will give to us the word picture of how this is going to happen. There are two pictures in Ezekiel 37 to encourage the captives. As we begin our way through this chapter we shall see the prophecy, but we will also see the practical lessons that apply from our lives.

➤ **The Valley of Dry Bones**

Notice Ezekiel 37:1-2

There are many thoughts which come to mind when I read this verse. Ezekiel is carried off by the Spirit of the Lord into a valley full of dead man's bones. This is not a place where Ezekiel would desire to be.

Deuteronomy 19:16-19

¹⁶ And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

¹⁷ And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:

¹⁸ And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:

¹⁹ And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.

For the common man to have contact with a dead body was to be defiled and he would need to go through the proper cleansing. Ezekiel was ranked above a common man.

Ezekiel 1:1-3

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

² *In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,*

³ *The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.*

Ezekiel was a priest, and it was forbidden for a priest to have contact with the dead unless it was close family.

Leviticus 21:1-4

And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, There shall none be defiled for the dead among his people:

² *But for his kin, that is near unto him, that is, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother.*

³ *And for his sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled.*

⁴ *But he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself.*

I show you these verses because we need to see that this was not a comfortable place for Ezekiel.

Application:

As we meditate upon this, we can be sure that it is the will of God for us to be in places that we would have not chosen, and we can be sure as life goes on we will be in places that are not comfortable. God will often place us in the valleys of life. Let us understand that Ezekiel would receive a great blessing in this valley where he did not desire to be.

For us, the same is true. God wastes no moves in our lives. He sometimes leads us into the valleys of life because there are lessons there that we need to learn.

Notice Ezekiel 37:1 again.

I want us to notice that Ezekiel was not alone in the valley for God was with him. Neither are we alone when we pass through the valleys of life. We are not alone when we are in places where we are uncomfortable.

Psalms 23:4

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 43:2-3a

² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

³ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Psalms 91:1, 15

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Notice Ezekiel 37:3-7

Ezekiel was commanded to prophesy to the dry bones. Ezekiel did as God commanded him. This will then bring about a miracle in this text.

Application:

This should remind us of the command that is given to pastors.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² **Preach the word**; *be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

⁴ *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

This is a reminder to me that my responsibility is to preach the Word of God. We are not here to be entertained, but we are gathered here to learn the Truth of God's Word. This is where many churches are failing today. They have many activities happening in the church, but they spend very little time learning the Bible. Some have 30 minutes of music and 10 minutes of Bible. The church is a barracks where soldiers are to be trained for the battle that happens outside the walls of this building.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

¹⁴ *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

Notice Ezekiel 37:8

If you are someone who writes notes in your Bible, then beside of this verse write down that this is Israel's first gathering in unbelief. If we notice in verse 8, they are gathered together but there is no breath. They are spiritually dead.

This gathering started in May of 1948 when Isarel became a state. This gathering has been happening since then.

Isaiah 11:11

¹¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Notice Ezekiel 37:7 again.

Notice that there was a noise and shaking that took place as they came together. I am reminded of the noise around the world because of the hatred for the Jews. Many people groups were shaken up because they would love nothing more than to see Israel eliminated. In our day there is a chant, "FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA" which means the Palestinians desire every Jew eliminated from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Many say that God is finished with Isarel because of their unbelief. But they will not always be in unbelief. Right now, they are and their current state of unbelief sets them up perfectly to enter the covenant with the Anti-Christ. Their current state is setting the stage for the 7-year tribulation period.

Daniel 9:27

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Israel must be in unbelief to enter this covenant. They would never enter the covenant in faith. So, the stage is being set as they are being regathered, and God will then use the Tribulation to bring them to repentance.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Notice Ezekiel 37:9-11

This is the whole house of Isarel. This is NOT THE CHURCH as many people will try to teach you. They will try to make this the church on the Day of Pentecost and the Bible is very clear that this is the whole house of Isarel. Not one lost tribe.

Notice Ezekiel 37:10-14

This is the 2nd world wide gathering in faith.

God will bring them out of the places where they will be hiding among the Gentile nations, and He will give them spiritual life.

Conclusion:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Israel's Two Regatherings

The Present (First) Regathering.

Return to Part of the Land

Return in unbelief.

Restored to land only.

Sets the stage for Tribulation.

(discipline)

The Permanent (second) Regathering

Return to all of the Land.

Return in faith.

Restored to land and the Lord.

Sets the stage for Millennium

(blessings)

Chart by Randal Price