

EZEKIEL 37:15-25

LESSON: ONE KING OVER ALL —May 10, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

Ezekiel begins this chapter with the vision of the "Dry Bones." The dry bones are a picture of the Jews in captivity-- scattered and dead. They represent the people's spiritually dead condition. Your church may seem like a heap of dry bones, spiritually dead with no hope of vitality, but God's promise is to restore His nation, and He can restore any church no matter how dry or dead it may be. God wants us to "pray without ceasing!" "Call upon His Name while He may be found." He will bring life and resurrection to deadness! Ezekiel gives a Prophetic message of encouragement and future blessings to a people of no hope, because of Jerusalem's fall. He tells the nation that they will rise from the "graves" and be brought into the land. Graves refer to the nations in which they were dispersed and will be regathered as living Israelites at the Lord's return. And, graves could mean the actual physical resurrection spoken in Daniel 12:1-2 and John 5:28-29. To the former, repentance and regeneration shall take place. Regeneration is through the Spirit as the Lord will place His Spirit in them and they shall live. The Lord will place them in their own land, and they will know that it was Him who had spoken and performed this for His people!

LESSON: I. A PROPHETIC SIGN FOR THE NATION EZEKIEL 37:15-17

37:15 The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,— At the beginning of this chapter Ezekiel tells us that the hand of the Lord was upon him and carried him away in the Spirit, sitting him down in the midst of a valley of dry bones. Now, as he is still in the Spirit, the Word of the Lord comes to him again to tell him more.

37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions:— Ezekiel is spoken to as son of man and is told to take two sticks. On one stick write *For Judah and for the children of Israel his companions*. And on the other stick write *For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions*. One stick represents Judah the Southern Kingdom. The other stick represents Joseph, the stick of Ephraim the Northern Kingdom. Joseph is son of Jacob. And Ephraim and Manasseh are the sons of Joseph.

37:17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. Ezekiel is told to join these two sticks together and they shall become one in his hand. The two sticks represented the reunion of the entire nation of Israel which had been divided into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms after Solomon. We see a national unity of all the tribes together being ruled by one King in spiritual unity by virtue of their regeneration. The prophetic sign for the nation referred to the symbol of the two sticks becoming one in Ezekiel's hand.

II. A PROPHETIC PROMISE FOR THE NATION EZEKIEL 37:18-25

37:18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?— Now, Ezekiel has a chance to explain the meaning of verse 17.

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37:19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, 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 mine hand. Because the people are going to ask the meaning of the two joined sticks, very plainly the Lord God tells Ezekiel what to say to them. The Lord God tells him that He will take the tribes of Israel and join them to Judah and make them one stick in God's hand.

37:20 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. God wants Ezekiel to hold in his hand the two sticks on which he wrote to let the people see them with their own eyes.

37:21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:— This is the promise God gives to His people! He tells Ezekiel two things He will do: (1) He will take the children (sons) of Israel from among the (nations) wherever they've gone, or were scattered and (2) He will gather them; reunite them from every side to bring them back to their own land.

37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. There will no longer be two nations, but only one nation. There will no longer be two kingdoms, but only one kingdom. One nation in the mountains of Israel with one king!

37:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. As God continues, and He makes it plain that the people were not to defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their foul practices, nor with all their sins. But He will do three more things for them:

1. I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned.
2. I will cleanse them: so shall they be my people.
3. I will be their God.

Places they have settled in and inhabited, God will cause them to see their sin and they will turn from their idols and detestable things and any other transgressions. And God will make them His people and He will be their God.

37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. God speaks of David, my servant, also known as Son of David, and refers to the Messiah. He shall be their King and only Shepherd over them. The people shall walk in, and do all of God's judgments, and observe His statutes.

37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, in your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. The people shall live in the land of Israel where their fathers lived; the land He had given His servant Jacob. This includes their children and their children's children forever. And when we're speaking of forever, His servant David refers to their Messiah who shall be their prince.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 26-28

37:26 God says He will make an everlasting covenant of peace with them. He will put them in their

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country and increase them in number. Then He will put His temple in the midst of them forever. **37:27** God will live with them in that place being their God, and they will be His people. **37:28** The heathen (nations) will know that it is He that makes Israel holy (set apart) when His temple shall be in the midst of them forever.

SUMMARY:

¹When the Lord brings His people back to the country, they shall be one nation. They had been two nations. The southern nation, called Judah, ruled two of the tribes of Israel. The other 10 tribes lived in the northern nation, usually called Israel. Joseph was the ancestor of the tribe of Ephraim. But sometimes in the Bible, Ephraim means the 10 tribes. After they return, the 12 tribes will all be in the one nation called Israel (37:15-17).

The exiles asked Ezekiel what the sticks meant. He told them what the Lord would do. The Lord will take the two sticks in His hand. There He will make them to be one stick. The two sticks meant the two nations. The one stick meant the new, united country that the Lord would establish. His servant David will be their king. They will all have one shepherd (ruler). They will live by His rules and they will obey His laws. They will live on the land that He gave to His servant Jacob. their ancestors lived in that country and they will live there, their children and their grandchildren until the end of time. And David His servant will be their ruler always. And this always refers to the Messiah to be King over all (37:18-25).