

EZEKIEL 37

Lesson
22

Israel's "Hopeless" Situation

- "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off" (37:11).
- The city of Jerusalem, the Holy City, is under Babylonian control.
- The glorious temple has been destroyed.
- Many Israelites have been killed.
- Most of those who survived are captives in a foreign land.

But Hope Is Not Lost!

- Ezekiel is taken by the Spirit, in a **vision**, to a valley of very many very dry bones (37:1–2).
 - NOT the first time he's been taken somewhere in a vision (3:14, 24; 8:3; 11:1, 24).
- Israel's rebirth (coming back to life) is portrayed by the events in this valley of dry bones.
- *Good news for Israel is good news for all.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

- Look for Ezekiel's great answer to God's question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" (v. 3).
- Look for what God tells Ezekiel to say to these bones (vv. 4-6, 9).
- Notice what Ezekiel **sees** and **hears** in this vision (vv. 2, 7-8, 10).
- Notice especially God's explanation in vv. 12-14.

Ezekiel 37:15-28: Background

- Remember, after the death of Solomon, God's people were divided into two kingdoms—Israel (Ephraim) in the north, and Judah in the south.
- Israel was taken into captivity about 115 years before Judah.
- So when God says, “I will take the **children of Israel** from among the nations” (v. 21), He is referring to children from both Judah and Israel.

Ezekiel 37:15-28: Two Sticks

- What did each of these two sticks represent? (vv. 16, 19).
- Joining them one to another into one stick—what did that represent? (vv. 17, 19, 22).
- What do the Mormons teach about these two sticks?
 - Bible is stick of Judah; Book of Mormon the stick of Ephraim.

Ezekiel 37:15-28: One King

- “One king shall be over them all” (v. 22); “David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd” (v. 24).
 - Very similar language back in 34:23–24.
- This prophecy is fulfilled in whom?
 - Compare Jeremiah 22:30; 23:5–6.
 - Luke 1:31–33.

Ezekiel 37:15-28: The Land

- “I will make them one nation in the land...one king shall be over them all” (v. 22).
- So what land does Jesus the Christ rule over?
 - “His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth’” (Zechariah 9:10).

Ezekiel 37:15-28: The Covenant

- “I will make a **covenant of peace** with them, and it shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them...” (v. 26).
- “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the **everlasting covenant**...” (Hebrews 13:20).
 - A covenant made with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Hebrews 8:8).

Ezekiel 37:15-28: The Sanctuary

- “I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore” (v. 26); “My tabernacle also shall be with them” (v. 27); “The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore” (v. 28).
- God dwells in/among His people (1 Cor. 3:16–17; 6:19–20), among those who “shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions...” (v. 23).