

# **Ezekiel – Study 13**

## **Would Ezekiel have stood a better chance of success in our churches today?**

### **Ezekiel Chapter 37.**

The King James Bible throughout

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We are coming to the end of these studies on Ezekiel. Chapters 40 onwards relates to the Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Sanctuary or The New Temple.

Chapter 37 is probably one of the most relevant chapters relating to the restoration of Israel and its part in the day of the Lord. Many Christians are not friends of Israel and believe the detrimental lies that are reported in the media. We must be very sure of our stance when we criticize Israel and what they do. Of course they make mistakes like the rest of the world but basically and fundamentally they are God's chosen people who have lost their way, but this chapter and others, tell us they will have a special place in God's new millennial Kingdom and we may find that they are nearer to the throne of God than most of us gentiles!

#### Verse 1&2

*The Hand of the Lord was upon me and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of a valley which was full of bones. And caused me to pass by them round about and, behold there were very many in the open valley and lo, they were very dry.*

The bones were very many and very dry which speaks of a total absence of any spirituality. We need to note a couple of things here; first God was using Ezekiel to minister to His people Israel and secondly this chapter deals with the restoration of Israel well into the future from the time of this vision. This chapter is about Israel and the end times.

God teased Ezekiel somewhat by asking him if he thought these bones might live. Ezekiel was cautious and passed the answer back to God. *O Lord God, you know*, obviously in the realm of human thinking the task was impossible.

#### Verse 4

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*Again He said unto me Prophesy upon these bones and say to them O ye dry bones  
hear the word of the Lord.*

It is important to remember that when God gives His WORD it comes with His personal guarantee, His WORD would mean that these dry bones would be revived and restored. Also it is important to note that Ezekiel did not question God when He asked him to speak to these dry bones. There is an encouraging message here for all Pastors and Leaders of churches but we won't go there just now!

Verse 5.

*Thus says the Lord God unto these bones, behold I will cause breath to enter into  
you and you shall live.*

This promise of breath is the same breath that was breathed upon Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God's new creation lay in the dust from which he was made and he just lay there and like these bones had no life within them. When God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" the very breath of God Himself man became a living soul. You'll find this in Genesis Chapter 2, read it and refresh your memory.

It is a wonder to me that as I breathe in and out I am breathing the very breath of God passed on down through the centuries. What are we doing with and saying with that breath? These bones were promised the same breath that Adam and Eve enjoyed and with that breath came life.

The life spoken of in this verse was both natural and spiritual. The natural aspect was the return of the Jews to Israel, starting in the mid to late 1800's culminated in the forming of their own State in 1948 and today many Jews from all parts of the world are making their way back to their homeland of Israel. The Spiritual life will begin in the coming Great Tribulation when 144,000 Jews will accept Christ as their own personal Saviour and be witnesses for The Lord. The fulfillment of this prophecy spoken to these dry bones representing Israel will come when the Lord returns to earth at His second coming.

Zechariah 13 verse 1

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*In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*

The words “In that day” occur eighteen times in the fourteen chapters of Zechariah showing how much that day means to the Lord. Not only will He be glad that He will have victory over the enemies of Israel His people, but also and greater still will be His moral victory over His People because they will have the scales fall from their eyes and will see Him for what He is, their Messiah, Saviour and Lord.

A fountain was opened at Calvary for all mankind with the shedding of His blood but we must remember this is a Jewish book written by Jewish writers under the power of the Spirit specifically to the Jewish nation. The Gentiles were “grafted in” through the work of Christ at Calvary. This nation, as we have been studying has been in rebellion against their God for a large part of their time on earth; the Gentile reader may not understand this and read these chapters from a Gentile perspective. Many Jews are still looking for their Messiah, their eyes have not been opened to the fact that Jesus is the Saviour of the world and that He came 2000 years ago to die on the cross to take away our sins.

So, this fountain that will be opened is to the *House of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness*. It was Jerusalem that stoned the Prophets and crucified the Messiah and it is quite possible that “in that day” the reality of those great sins will become such a burden that only an open fountain and not just a font will be the hope of God’s people.

### Ezekiel Verse 6

*And I will lay sinews upon you and will bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you and you shall live and you shall know that I am the Lord*

These bones did once have life in them, they did once have skin, sinews and flesh, but now they are dry bones. The Lord is saying you will come to life *again* which should have been a great encouragement to Israel. Israel started their existence being the alternative under

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God to the rest of the world, showing that putting God as their head and in obedience to Him gave them advantage in battle, prosperity, the best crops, better living and so on. But as we have seen they began to worship the gods of the heathen, married into heathen homes and rebelled against the laws of Jehovah their King. So they were once alive unto God but they became and still are spiritually dead to God's laws today. But God was saying through Ezekiel He would bring them into Life again that they may know that He is the Lord.

Today a man may assume all the attributes of a spiritual person yet be like these bones dead in the eyes of the Lord.

This phrase “**That they may know that I am the Lord**” is repeated very many times throughout Ezekiel but it will only be when that fountain is opened to Israel that Zechariah speaks of in the “day of the Lord” will they KNOW their God.

### Ezekiel 37 verse 7

*So I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied there was a noise and behold a shaking and the bones came together bone to his bone.*

At the Word of the Lord bone was joined to bone in order, there was no mistake; a body did not end up with three arms or someone else's leg. Also the Hebrew says the bones came together at a “voice” not a noise. Should we not make sure we listen to the voice of God and make less noise as we do so?

### Verse 8

*And when I looked lo, the sinews and flesh came upon them and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.*

As mentioned above National Israel began in 1948 but the phrase “but there was no breath in them” refers to the fact that the nation of Israel has no Spiritual life.

### Verse 9

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*Then He said unto me Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy son of man and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath and breathe upon these slain that they may live.*

The number four is symbolic of “fourfold” “foursquare” denoting complete, total, and absolute Restoration.

### Verse 10

*So I prophesied as He commanded me and breath came into them and they lived, stood up upon their feet an exceeding great army.*

Israel is a nation that for over 2000 years has not stood upon their feet spiritually but in “That Day” of which the Lord speaks with such enthusiasm they shall be an exceeding great army for the Lord. Israel may have one of the best armies in the world at the moment they may be a clever nation producing goods that are sold the world over, but this prophecy speaks of a time which will take place at the second coming of Christ.

Israel must suffer much before this great day,

### Zechariah 13, 8 tells us so:

*And it shall come to pass that in all the land says the Lord two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*

### Zechariah 14.1

*Behold the day of the Lord comes and your spoil shall be divided in the midst of you. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle and the city shall be taken and houses rifled and the women ravished and half the city shall go forth into captivity and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

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This refers to the last half of the Great Tribulation and Zechariah predicts that 2 thirds of Israel's population will die during this time and only one third remain. There are approximately five million Jews in Israel at the moment, let's say there might be six million at the time of the Battle of Armageddon, this means that four million will be killed, more than at any time in recent history will such a large number of a population of any nation being destroyed.

And God says: verse 9

*I will bring the third part through the fire and will refine them as silver is refined and I 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"*

After much refining, fire and persecution the remnant will call upon His name He whom they had pierced and will repent of all sins and all the rebellion that we have studied in these 13 studies and Israel will come into a proper full relationship with their God Jehovah having been purified and cleansed. They will be owned again by the Lord and as the dry bones we have looked at will become an exceedingly great army. So great and real will be that union between God and His people that Hosea puts it they shall call me no more Baah which means "my Lord" but Ishi which means "husband". Hosea 2. 16

So, this exceeding great army that will stand upon their feet will be an army devoted to the Lord, Israel's husband.

Ezekiel 37 verse 16.

*Moreover thou son of man take thee one stick and write on it For Judah and 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.*

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Ezekiel was told to take two sticks and mark them and then hold them together in one hand so they become one signifying both kingdoms will be one kingdom by the hand of the Lord never to be separated again

### Verse 18

*And when the Children of your people shall speak unto you saying will you not show us what you mean by these?*

This simple act of using just two sticks in the hand of Ezekiel was to show the future union of the tribes and their restoration to the Land of Israel under one Shepherd and in their own Land as promised to Abraham. This is to be totally fulfilled in the coming Kingdom Age or “In that Day” that the Lord speaks of.

### Verse 23

*Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols nor with their detestable things, nor with their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned and will cleanse them so shall they be My people and I will be their God.*

### Verse 24

*And David My servant shall be king over them; they shall have one Shepherd, they shall walk in My Statutes and do them.*

After all the hundreds of years of rebellion and disobedience Israel experienced, after all the calling of their God to Himself, God will have His will and purpose with His people, they will have all the Land back that has been taken from them, they will have the Lord’s servant David to be their king ruling under The Lord Himself. (Some commentators say that David is another name for Messiah, you may read that in some of the latest editions of the Bible, but this is not so, never once is Christ called “my servant David”).

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God through Ezekiel encourages His people they will be cleansed and holy before Him. He tells them His Sanctuary will be with them and He will dwell in it, all this will be at the time of His second coming.

Chapter 38 deals with the Prophecy against the gentile powers at the Armageddon; and that will be the last in our studies of Ezekiel I hope you have enjoyed them and they have been a help to your classes and home groups. I would encourage you to read about the new Temple from Chapter 40 onwards.

*“One of the most fatal habits a preacher can ever fall into is to read his Bible simply in order to find texts for sermons. This is a real danger; it must be recognized and fought and resisted with all your might. Do not read the Bible to find texts for sermons, read it because it is the food that God has provided for your soul, because it is the Word of God, because it is the means whereby you can get to know God. Read it because it is the bread of life, the manna provided for your soul’s nourishment and well-being.” (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Preaching and Preachers (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1972), 172)*

I believe this is what God told Ezekiel to do in Chapter 3. Eat the scroll; get it into your spirit so you can teach from your heart with knowledge and understanding. The Holy Spirit will help you.