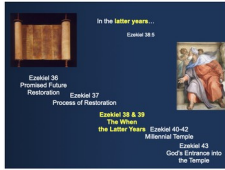


Ezekiel 37 National Restoration

And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD. Ezekiel 37:14

Review: The Future Restoration



- Ezekiel 36 - describes the future restoration of Israel
- Ezekiel 37 - illustrates the process of restoration, beginning with the land.
- Ezekiel 38, 39 - informs us when these events will take place.
- Ezekiel 40-42 - describes the Millennial Temple in the restored land.
- Ezekiel 43 - describes the LORD's entrance into the Temple – the Glory returns.

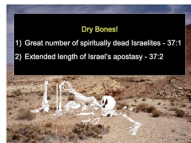
Ezekiel 37:1-14 – The Process of National Restoration - Illustrated

Beginning with Ezekiel 37 verse 1, the Lord begins the process of Israel's restoration as a nation with an illustration – vv. 1-14.

It will begin with a restoration of long dead spiritual bodies that represent the nation of Israel - first to physical life and ends with Israel's restored spiritual life.

*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 the valley** which was full of bones,*

Ezekiel 37:1



The “bones” picture two facts regarding the nation of Israel and its people, as a group:

1) The words, “full of bones,” picture the great number of **spiritually dead** Israelites from the time of the nation's apostasy just before the Babylonian Captivity until the yet future restoration.

2) They picture the **extended length** of time that Israel has been apostate for a significant length of time is needed for the bones to reach a “dry” state.

Keep in mind, this illustration is speaking of the nation as a whole and not the resurrection of individuals, for verse 11 declares:

*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.*

The fact that the “bones” are visible in the “midst of the valley” tells the reader that from God's viewpoint, **Israel is in a disgraced state, for i**n the ancient world of Ezekiel's day it was considered disgraceful for a body not to be buried and out of sight. Since this is an illustration and not a literal state, God is speaking of the spiritual condition of the nation that forced Him to put them into captivity in Babylon.

However, God will never abandon His people. He now describes the process He will use to bring these bones back to a spiritually living state. The process is the reverse of the decomposing path that brought them to this state.

Here, in verse 7, the bones will regain their proper alignment, “bone to his bone.” God will not create some kind of monster, but an organized physical body, or in this case, an orderly nation.

Next He will restore the sinews [muscles, ligaments, and tendons] to join the bones and then He will cover them with flesh – v. 8.

Thus, Israel will go from being spiritually useless dry bones to an active nation that still lacks spiritual life.

Two observations about this passage:



1) Clearly, the people of Ezekiel’s day **understood this illustration** of resurrection – for Ezekiel did not have to elaborate or explain resurrection. I believe, from Adam to this day, God has seen that the doctrine of resurrection has been known.



Interpretation Principle: God always chooses illustrations that are something His listeners/readers can easily picture and understand if they take the time and effort. He never offers an illustration that is completely beyond their experience.

The second thing to be observed begins by scanning verses 5-14 – what term or word is emphasized in this passage?



2) The key to this chapter is God’s “**breath**” – vv. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14 – for without the “breath” given by God these **bones are a useless bunch bones** inside a skin bag. It is only God Who can give spiritual life in response to peoples’ cry for God, as the nation will do at Petra during the Tribulation.

This is the same Hebrew word used for the Holy Spirit – verse 14.

God promises Israel that He will give them (36:26)...

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

This is part of God’s New Covenant for Israel declared in Ezekiel 36, [more on this in a coming lesson].

The Process Begins – v. 4

Now let’s understand the process that God will use. It begins with...



1) Ezekiel and the men of God that follow after him are **to preach the Word**, v. 4 –

*Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, **hear the word of the LORD.***

While God will decide when the nation is to be restored and the timing, it still will begin with the preaching of His Word. We are not robots controlled by God. Man can certainly create the atmosphere for revival, but it is God’s Word that brings it into being. Only when Israel or individuals respond to the Word, will the breath of life come to them. [Remember, God’s Word is by inspiration, literally God-breathed.]

Roman 10:17 tells us:

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This is God's method. He has given each of us a free will, that's part of the image of God. If a nation or individual does not hear or chooses to ignore the Word, they can never be delivered.

This passage in Ezekiel is basically an illustration of the same principle also applies to individuals. For Romans 10: 14-15 says:

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!



Biblical Principle:

We must always remember to use Scripture when giving a testimony or presenting the Gospel, for it is only the authority of God's Word that can be heard by spiritually dead people.



2) The second aspect is that the **Spirit convicts the individual of sin**. Remember, people are sinners by nature – *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God!* - Romans 3:23 – furthermore, the *wages of sin is death* [spiritual death] – Romans 6:23.

In John 16 verse 7c and 8 we read of the Holy Spirit's work:

...I [Jesus Christ] will send him [the Holy Spirit] unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

At that point, a person, believing what they hear is true, may choose to call upon the Lord for salvation – Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

By receiving the Lord as their Savior, God responds by having the Holy Spirit indwell them and they have the breath of eternal life.

This will happen for national Israel when they are in the wilderness of Edom, possible Petra. At this future time, the desperate nation will turn to God and His Word. As a nation they will call out to Him and be given spiritual life.

Ezekiel 37:15-23 – A Restored United Kingdom

God again uses another illustration to picture another aspect of Israel's restoration – that of two sticks, representing the two-kingdom division that occurred after Solomon. At this future time, they will be **joined**

and become **one united nation.** – v. 17.

Ezekiel stresses that there will be only one king in that future day – not two kings and two kingdoms. The mention of these two sticks may be a reference to the scepters mentioned in Numbers 17:2 where one stick represented each leader of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Significant is the reference to King David in verse 24, for it was under the apostasy during Solomon – a son of David, that the kingdom became divided. Now the nation will be reunited under another son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ.