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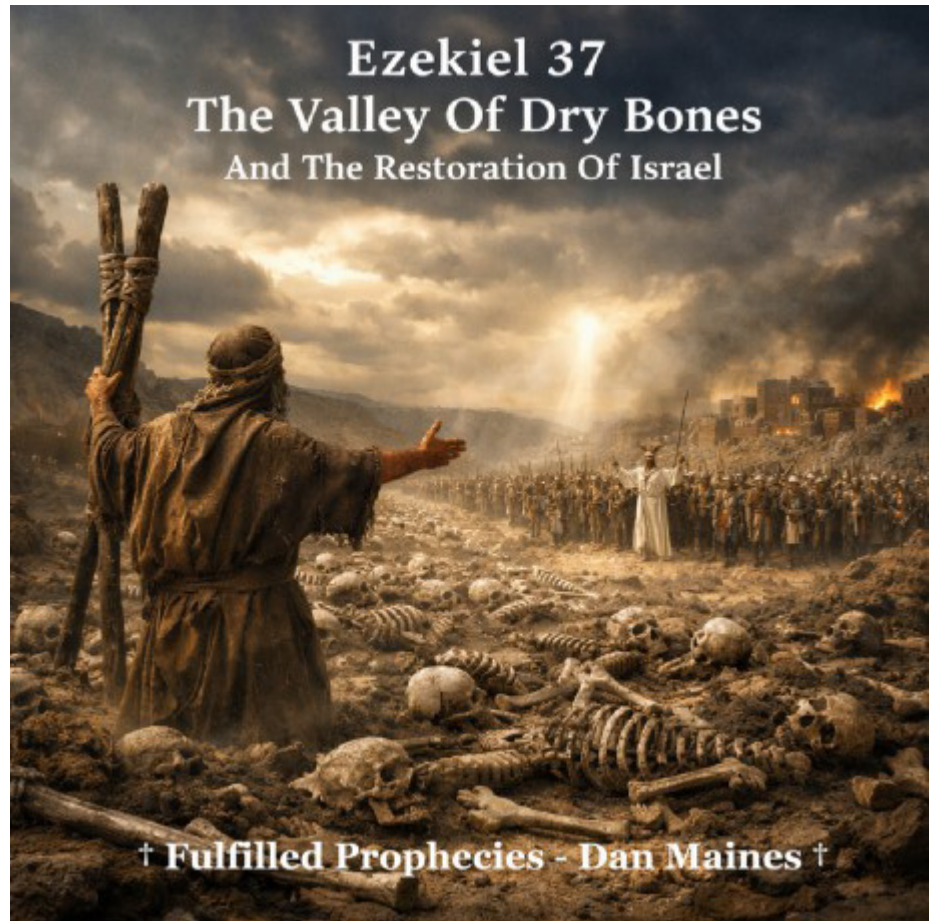
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Ezekiel 37 The Valley Of Dry Bones And The Restoration Of Israel



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 37 The Valley Of Dry Bones And The Restoration Of Israel

Introduction

† Ezekiel 37 presents one of the clearest pictures of restoration in all of Scripture, showing Israel as completely dead, without hope, and cut off (Ezekiel 37:11)

† This is not about physical corpses rising from graves, but about covenantal restoration, Israel being brought from death to life as a people (Ezekiel 37:12)

† This was fulfilled through Christ and completed in the first century when God restored His people into one new body and removed the old covenant system in AD 70 (Ephesians 2:14-16, Matthew 24:34)

Ezekiel 37:1-3

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones. He had me pass among them all around, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. Then He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, Lord God, You know.

† The bones are described as very dry, meaning there was no life, no hope, and no possibility of restoration in themselves (Ezekiel 37:11)

† This represents Israel in exile and spiritual death, cut off from covenant life and separated from God (Isaiah 59:2)

† The question can these bones live points to God's power alone, not man's ability, showing restoration is entirely God's work (John 5:21)

Ezekiel 37:4-6

Again He said to me, Prophecy over these bones and say to them, You dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord God says to these bones: Behold, I am going to make breath enter you so that you may come to life. And I will attach tendons to you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin, and put breath in you so that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.

† The life comes through the word of God, not through human effort, showing the power of God's voice to bring life from death (John 6:63)

† The breath here is the same idea as the Spirit, showing spiritual life being given, not physical resurrection (Genesis 2:7)

† This points directly to the new covenant where God gives life through His Spirit, restoring His people (2 Corinthians 3:6)

Ezekiel 37:7-10

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, tendons were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, This is what the Lord God says: Come from the four winds, breath, and breathe on these slain, so that they come to life. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

† The two stages show structure without life first, then Spirit bringing true life, showing that outward form without Spirit is still dead (James 2:26)

† This mirrors Israel under the law, having structure but lacking true life until Christ brought the Spirit (Galatians 3:21)

† The exceedingly great army represents a restored covenant people, alive and empowered by God (1 Peter 2:9)

Ezekiel 37:11-14

Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off. Therefore prophesy and say to them, This is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am going to open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. And I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it,

declares the Lord.

† God explains the vision clearly, this is Israel, not literal graves, but national and spiritual death (Ezekiel 37:11)

† Opening graves is covenant language, bringing them out of death into life through restoration (Hosea 13:14)

† This was fulfilled in Christ when He raised His people into new life and brought them into the true land, the kingdom (Colossians 1:13)

Ezekiel 37:15-17

The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions; then take another stick and write on it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and all the house of Israel, his companions. Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand.

† The divided kingdom is being reunited, showing the end of division among God's people (1 Kings 12:19)

† This points to the unity brought by Christ, making both Jew and Gentile one body (Ephesians 2:14)

† The two becoming one is fulfilled in the church, the one new man in Christ (Ephesians 2:15)

Ezekiel 37:18-23

When the sons of your people speak to you, saying, Will you not declare to us what you mean by these? say to them, This is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am going to take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand. The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. Say to them, This is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am going to take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from

every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols or with their detestable things or with any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

† The gathering from the nations shows restoration beyond physical land, pointing to a global people of God (Romans 9:24-26)

† One king over them is Christ, the true King who reigns over a united people (John 18:37)

† Cleansing from sin points to the new covenant forgiveness accomplished through Christ (Hebrews 8:12)

Ezekiel 37:24-28

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and follow them. They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their leader forever. And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will establish them, multiply them, and put My sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place also will be among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.

† David here refers to Christ, the Son of David, ruling as King forever (Luke 1:32-33)

† The covenant of peace is the new covenant, eternal and unbreakable (Isaiah 54:10)

† The sanctuary in their midst is fulfilled in Christ and His

people, God dwelling with them (Revelation 21:3)

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, showing the end of the old covenant system and the full transition into the new (Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† Eusebius confirms the church understood these prophecies as fulfilled in Christ and the fall of Jerusalem (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† Tacitus describes the devastation of Judea, confirming the judgment and transition of that generation (Histories 5.13)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We were once dead, but God has made us alive in Christ, this is our identity now (Ephesians 2:5)

† We are part of the one united people of God, no longer divided, but one body in Him (Galatians 3:28)

† God dwells with us now, we are His temple and His people (1 Corinthians 3:16)

† The promises are fulfilled, we are living in the reality Ezekiel saw (Hebrews 12:28)

Q & A Appendix

Q What do the dry bones represent

A They represent the whole house of Israel in a state of spiritual death and hopelessness (Ezekiel 37:11)

Q Is this about physical resurrection

A No, God explains it as restoration of Israel, not literal graves, but covenant life being restored (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

Q When was this fulfilled

A It was fulfilled through Christ and completed in the first century, culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70

(Matthew 24:34, Ephesians 2:14-16)

Q Who is the one king over them

A Christ, the Son of David, who reigns over His people forever
(Luke 1:32-33)

Q What is the covenant of peace

A The new covenant established by Christ, bringing forgiveness and eternal life (Hebrews 8:12)

Q What is the sanctuary in their midst

A God dwelling with His people through Christ, fulfilled in the church (Revelation 21:3)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 37:1-28

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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