

Bible Studies

Ezekiel 37

Read Ezekiel 37

Was this a vision or did it really happen?

To me it seems clear that this was a vision, It did not literally happen. But this does not make it unreal for it described events that would really happen much latter.

To begin with all Ezekiel sees is dry bones across the valley floor.

What picture is being generated? cf. 11b

Four stages

- 1 Bones came together.
- 2 Tendons and flesh covered them.
- 3 Breathe entered them
- 4 They stood up.

Ezekiel 37:

- 1 *he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD*
5 *I will make breath enter you.*
6 *I will put breath in you, and you will come to life*
8 *but there was no breath in them.*
9 *Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy*
9 *Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain*
10 *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them;*
14 *I will put my Spirit in you and you will live,*

Each word underlined is the word Ruach. It has two main meanings Spirit and Wind (Jesus & Nicodemus John 3v8). It can mean breath, but this is not it's common meaning. (It is not the word used in Genesis 3v7 when God breathed into Adam.)

How you translate the word depends on the context, but you must remember that it is the same word. The breath and wind are the Spirit.

What was it that gave the corpses life?

Job 33v4
John 6v63
Romans 8v2
2 Corinthians 3v6

Why did God ask Ezekiel if the bones could live?

What did Ezekiel need to do?

Ezekiel as a prophet spoke out God's will directly to the bones, this was more than a prayer. He only did this at God's implicit command.

Can we do the same?

What are the bones? Ezekiel 37v11

Read Ephesians 3:62 & 2 Corinthians 1v20 & Romans 9v4

This prophecy is for:



Israel only because it was given before the Church existed.



The Church only, because we have replaced Israel.



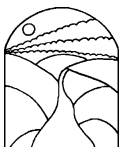
The Church and Israel because we are co heirs in the promises.

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Lots of people today try to claim that God has rejected Israel and that all of the promises now only apply to the Church, (Israel of course can keep all the curses).

Read Romans 11v1

Did God reject his people? Many wish Paul had answered yes. But he didn't.

God made two covenants with Israel, one with Abraham, the at Mt. Sinai. In Christ the Law (Mt. Sinai) is abolished. Hebrews 8v13, Ephesians 2v15. But the Abrahamic Covenant is not, It had no conditions to break, it was based on a promise not law. Galatians 3v18.

Ezekiel 37 applies to Israel.

Read Ezekiel 37v12-14

The bones = the destruction of the holocaust in which 6,000,000 Jews died, only because they were Jews.

The tendons and flesh = The re-establishment of the State of Israel, with it's Government and the return of the Jews from their 2000 year exile.

The breath = Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." Romans 11:25-26

Where are we in regard to Ezekiel's prophecy?

The recreation of the State of Israel in our time is a sign of the return of Christ. He is restoring His ancient people. They will not be saved by obeying the Law, for Christ is the end of the Law. They will not be saved by building a Temple, for Christ was the final sacrifice. They will be saved through faith in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Saved the same way that you and I are saved. Together Jews and Gentile one people of God. Natural olive branches, regrafted into their own root, along side the ingrafted wild branches. Romans 11v16-24.

Israel is always in the news and is busy becoming an international out cast. While Israel does many things that are wrong, the media take a bias view, often the reporting is woefully inaccurate and misleading. Israel is an unsaved nation that needs Christ. But God is finishing the purposes He started with Abraham 4000 years ago in front of our very eyes!

Does supporting Israel mean agreeing with everything she does?

Does Ezekiel 37 applies to us?

What does this picture represent when applied to us?

What is the effect of the Spirit in the individual and the Church?

Does the Church fit the description of the Bones?

What areas of our lives are dead?

One of the themes of this chapter is division and reunification.

Do you think it also speaks to church unity?

What do we need to bring us life?