

**EZEKIEL**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ezekiel chapter 37 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Keep in mind that we are in the last division of the book of Ezekiel that covers Ezekiel chapters 34 through 48 and the focus is the future restoration of Israel. And as we get into Ezekiel chapter 37 tonight we will see one of the most amazing miracles and the beginning of the fulfillment of what the Lord promised to the Jews, that the Son of David, the Messiah would rule and reign from Jerusalem.

The problem for the Jews is that the Romans removed them from the land of Israel and then for almost 2,000 years they did not have a homeland. They were dispersed throughout the world. I am not saying that there were no Jewish people living in the land of Israel for that period of time, because they were, but they were not a nation, at least not yet!

If that was not bad enough we then see World War II come into play. And in this war the Jewish people experienced their worst tragedy to date. Six million Jews were put to death under the regime of Adolph Hitler. What is interesting is that Hitler used religion and specifically the death of Jesus for his reason to kill the Jewish people.

In a speech he gave on April 12, 1922 Hitler said, "In boundless love, as a Christian and a human being, I read the passage which tells us how the Lord at last rose in His might and seized the scourge to drive out of the Temple the brood of vipers and adders. How terrific was His fight against the Jewish poison; I realize more profoundly than ever before the fact that it was for this that He had to shed his blood upon the Cross." ("Hitler on Jesus," Christian Jewish Relations, Volume 16, No. 4, 1983, pp. 60). One main point, besides many others that he missed is that Jesus is Jewish!

And when you see and read of the atrocities that he perpetrated upon not only Jews but other so-called “inferior people” you can easily see that he was not a Christian, not at all! And for those who try to say that God is done with the Jewish people, this chapter should put an end to that. But because of their biased ideas, they reject the fact that God is going to deal with His people, the Jews in these last days once again and the nation will turn to Jesus as their Messiah at the end of the Tribulation Period. They will enter into the Kingdom Age and what God promised to them, that the Son of David would rule from the throne of David, they will see as Jesus rules and reigns.

God does not go back on His Word and if you still think that God is done with the Jewish people, there are many verses that show that He is not. But in Jeremiah 31:31-40 the Lord tells us, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me**

**forever. Thus says the Lord: If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord. Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the city shall be built for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the Lord. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.**

We start out with God saying that no longer is He going to write His Law on tablets of stone but upon their heart as He makes a New Covenant with them. This New Covenant is based upon the shed blood of Christ and it is accomplished through His finished work not theirs!

And for those who think God is done with Israel, with the Jews, we see that God is telling them and us, that if you ever see the sun stop shining, the stars fade away, if you can measure the universe, then Israel will be cast off by God. Now some say we have measured the universe. That is not true.

This blew me away because we hear of the universe being some 15 billion light years in diameter but we are now being told, "Recent measurements reveal that the Universe is at least 150 billion light-years in diameter." (<http://www.universetoday.com/37409/how-big-is-the-universe/>) And yet we still don't know, so we have not been able to measure the universe!

And the reality is that you will not see that happen because God has not and will not forsake Israel. The reason is simple, back in chapter 15 of Genesis God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham. This covenant was unilateral and not based upon the faithfulness of man, but of God.

And you can take that to the bank, Israel will not be forsaken by God! This is an everlasting covenant that He made with them and as you can see here, God will not have them cease from being a nation and He will not forsake them!

And then, in verses 38-40 of Jeremiah chapter 31 we see the boundaries of Jerusalem given and these boundaries of Jerusalem is speaking of the Kingdom Age. And as you can see, it will be significantly larger than it originally was. Not only that, but it will stand forever. Thus, this is a prophecy concerning the Kingdom yet to come during the Millennium.

Not only that but the Lord is also saying that one day all the places they used for their idolatry, their sacrificing of their children to the god Molech, all those places of defilement, will be holy to God. No longer will they be an abomination to God, for God will transform those wicked places to bring Him glory.

But again, before that happens, this nation, these people who were all but dead will have to be raised up once again and that is what we will see here in Ezekiel chapter 37. With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 37 starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

### **EZEKIEL 37**

#### **VERSES 1-3**

1. It seems that Ezekiel is given this vision by God of this valley that is packed with these dry, sun-bleached bones. You might call this "***Death Valley***" because that is exactly what it looked like. It was nothing more than a massive graveyard that once represented life, but now all that is seen is death.

Now the question is, “Who are these bones speaking of?” Very simply it is speaking of the Jewish people, the whole house of Israel. And for those who feel I am stretching this and it is not speaking of the Jewish people, then just listen to what Ezekiel 37:11 tells us, “**Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. . . .’**”

It is important for us to understand that because if we get that wrong then we will miss the point that God is making here, what He is going to do and I believe has already begun to do!

2. So as Ezekiel looks out over this valley of dead bones, this “*Death Valley*” the Lord asks Ezekiel, “**Son of man, can these bones live?**” Put yourself in Ezekiel’s shoes. That is a tough question to answer. These bones are dry, they are lifeless and how can Ezekiel know if they can live or not?

And truly from a human perspective it is easy, of course these bones cannot live, they are dead, they are lifeless and there is no way they can live. But when you look at it from God’s perspective, of course these bones can live, that is not a problem!

But Ezekiel is not sure, he is not denying God’s power to restore life to these bones but he is unsure if that is what God wants to do. So Ezekiel throws the ball back into God’s court and says, “**O Lord GOD, You know.**” And we will see the Lord answer that question as we move on.

3. One more thought here and I believe it is important for us to understand this. I do see this applying to our lives today. You see, I think that idea applies to every person who has ever lived and will ever live on this earth except for Jesus because He was without sin. But man is separated from God because of his sin and thus, he is spiritually dead. The big question is, “*Can he live again?*” From a human perspective there is nothing man can do to resurrect his dead, lifeless body.

But God can and Jesus touches on this in Matthew 19:25-26 where we are told, “**When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’**”

What is impossible for man it is very possible with God! And it is not just that He can do it, His desire is to save man. We see that in I Timothy 2:4-6 where we read that it is God, “**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**”

So again, it is not only that God can do this in our lives, but He also desires to do it! But it is our choice; we must come to Him and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of our lives, to forgive us of our sins. Paul tells us where we were before we came to Jesus and then where we are at now in Ephesians 2:1-9, **“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

In other words, God has extended to us the free gift of life that is only found in Jesus and we must receive that gift by faith. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone! God can take these dead spiritual bodies and make them alive again in Christ and we are examples of what God can do and has done!

VERSES 4-6

1. The Lord tells Ezekiel to speak to these bones and God will give them life and they will get ligaments, muscles, flesh upon them as God breathes life into them! Can you imagine standing in front of all these bones and speaking forth these words? Ezekiel did because the Lord instructed him to and he trusted in the Lord, as strange a command as this was or seemed. But understand this, God has you take that step of faith and then He begins to work.

2. One other point before we move on and that is what the Lord said to Ezekiel in speaking to these dry bones. He said, **“O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!”** Why are so many people who go to church dry, lifeless, without hope? Because they are not given the Word of God!

God’s Word is living, it is powerful and it can bring life to the dead you might say. May that be a wake-up call to churches that negate or water down the Word of God, change the Word of God to make it more appealing to the people!



VERSES 7-10

1. We see Ezekiel obey the Lord and he spoke as he was commanded. When he did, all of a sudden these bones came together, the muscles and ligaments came together, and flesh was covering all of this. You know how this goes; Herman Munster had it right as he sang,

My toe bone's connected to my foot bone  
 My foot bone's connected to my heel bone  
 My heel bone's connected to my ankle bone  
 That's how they connected those dry bones

My leg bone's connected to my knee bone  
 My knee bone's connected to my thigh bone  
 My thigh bone's connected to my hip bone  
 That's how they connected those dry bones

Back with Dr. Frankenstein is where my story starts  
 Everything I have may not be mine, but I'm a gentleman of parts

My back bone's connected to my shoulder bone  
 My shoulder bone's connected to my neck bone  
 My neck bone is bolted to my head bone  
 And that's how Herman was born – I was assembled  
 And that's how Hermie Baby was born

Okay, this was a little different but you get the idea. Flashback to my childhood! As all these body parts come together there is only one thing missing, *LIFE!* These bodies came together as they should, but there was no life in them.

But then the breath of life came into these bones and they stood upon their feet and it was an exceedingly great army that came together!

2. Now as we read this we have to try to understand if this has already happened, is it in the process of happening or is this something that is still future. We will look at this and I will show you what I believe the Lord is saying here and why, scripturally speaking.

First of all some see this as being a complete fulfillment or that this has already taken place. Keep in mind that when Ezekiel wrote these words the nation of Israel was in captivity in Babylon. Many people were killed and the nation was, in a sense, dead. Can this nation come to life again? You bet! God did raise them up and bring them home again. We can call this a partial fulfillment or a glimpse of what is to come but as we will see as we read through this chapter and on into chapters 38 and 39, this has not been fulfilled yet.

The second view is seen in our recent past. In 70 A .D. the Jews were scattered throughout the world as the Romans came in and destroyed Jerusalem. Then, in 1948 God brought His people back home again, but not before 6 million Jews were murdered by Hitler and the German army.

Again, picture in your mind this massive graveyard, 6 million dead bodies, can they live? You bet! God brought them back into the land of Israel, this people who were almost wiped out. He preserved the Hebrew language. And this too is only a partial fulfillment of what is to come.

But let me share a few things with you to show you how miraculous this was, that without a homeland for almost 2,000 years their identity was preserved, they were not assimilated into other cultures.

On May 14, 1948, the British officially left Palestine and on the same day, the State of Israel was immediately declared by David Ben Gurion, acting as its provisional Prime Minister.

America was the first country to officially recognize the new State of Israel – eleven minutes after it was declared. U.S. President Harry Truman signed the letter of recognition – despite the objections by The United States Secretary of State George Marshall and the entire State Department.

Immediately after the declaration an all-out war broke out between the Jews and Arabs. Seven Arab armies attacked the new Jewish State – but were not united both militarily and politically. For example, the Arab League was established in order to counter The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem’s ambition to secure domination of Arab Palestine. At the same time, King Abdullah of Jordan wanted to merge Palestine with his kingdom. Eventually, the Arab forces began to lose the war.

As the war was raging the Jewish leadership begged the local Palestinian Arabs not to abandon their homes but the Arab leadership forbade the Arabs to return or live in areas under Jewish rule. [These are the so-called refugees and have now been called “Palestinians” but they came from the Arab nations around Israel and many lived in the land of Israel. They are used for propaganda today.]

Unfortunately, in one form or another, the war and battles that began in 1948 have continue to this day.

- <http://www.jewishhistory.org/the-miracle-of-israel/>

In Isaiah 66:8-9 we are told, **“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?” says the Lord. ‘Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?’ says your God.”**

This is exactly what happened on May 14, 1948. Having been brought to the brink of extinction by the horrors of the Holocaust, facing persecution around the world, and surrounded by their enemies, the Jewish people gathered together in Israel and declared themselves a nation in a single day. The United States recognized Israel as a nation on that same day, and Israel's victories in the wars since have solidified their place among the nations of the world.

Listen to just one more story and what God can do. We are told,

The year was 1956. Israel had been a modern nation for eight years, surrounded by hostile enemies who were planning wars to destroy the Jewish state. The navy of Israel was for all purposes, almost nonexistent. The main enemy of Israel was the Egyptians, under the leadership of President Nasser. The Egyptians had several battleships and Nasser gave orders to move one of the large ships toward Haifa, in Israel.

The Israelis had one beat-up hull of a ship. They immediately painted it and put huge paper Mache missiles on the deck. When the Egyptian ship arrived, the Israeli's sent a smaller boat out to meet it and warned them they had a new ship with very large missiles pointed at the Egyptians. The orders were given for the Egyptians to surrender immediately, or be destroyed. Oddly enough, the Egyptians surrendered their battleship, to a hull with fake missiles!

- <http://www.nyjtimes.com/cover/03-10-03/MiraclesinTimeofWar.htm>

But again, what transpired in 1948 is just a partial fulfillment of what is spoken of here in Ezekiel chapter 37. I think there is the complete fulfillment and as we will see, it is looking on into the Kingdom Age. Just remember that the rebirth of Israel as an independent nation in 1948 is one of the most significant events in world history. Never before has an entire race of people been without a homeland for so long without assimilating into surrounding populations.

The third view and I believe the complete fulfillment of what this chapter is all about comes at the end of the Tribulation Period as God is going to set-up His Kingdom here on this earth. You see, at the 3½ year mark of the seven- year Tribulation Period, the Antichrist will go into the holy of holies and demand to be worshiped as God. At this point many Jews will flee for their lives to Petra as 2/3 of the Jewish population will be wiped out by the Antichrist and his forces, only 1/3 making it through the Tribulation Period. Maybe some 10 million Jews will be murdered by this man and his forces. And once again the question can be asked, “*Can this people live?*” You bet! God will restore them and they will enter into the Kingdom Age with Him.

#### VERSES 11-14

1. Get the picture of what is going on here as the Lord speaks to the Jewish people, the nation of Israel. The picture is of these dry and disjointed bones that represent the entire people of Israel. The Northern Kingdom of Israel, and now the Southern Kingdom of Judah as well, had been destroyed and left desolate. The scattered survivors of the two kingdoms could in no sense be considered a nation any longer. All hope is gone and yet, God wants to give them hope, a hope for the future!

For those captive in Babylon, they will return home one day, the captivity will end and they will be restored as a nation. Not the complete fulfillment of this prophecy but a picture of what is to come!

And as I said, we see in our day another partial fulfillment of this prophecy. You see, six million Jews were murdered by Hitler, the situation once again seemed hopeless, but God brought them home again. What took place in 1948 was truly a miracle of God. On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation once again!

At four o'clock that afternoon on May 14, 1948 the members of the provisional national council, led by David Ben-Gurion, met in the Tel Aviv Art Museum. Ben-Gurion rose and read the following proclamation to the assembled guests. He said,

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.

Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained, faithful to it in all countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom. . .

Accordingly we, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly today, the day of the termination of the British Mandate of Palestine, by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called *ISRAEL* . . .

With trust in Almighty God, we set our hand to this declaration, at this session of the Provisional State Council, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth year of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth day of May, 1948.

- David Ben-Gurion May 14, 1948

Prior to this announcement we see President Harry Truman acknowledge the state of Israel. But not all were in agreement. Clark Clifford was a highly respected Democrat who served as senior advisor for and special counsel to President Truman. And listen to what transpired as President Truman was trying to decide what to do with Israel, to acknowledge them as a nation or not. We are told,

Clifford noted that Truman regarded then–secretary of state (and decorated Army general) George C. Marshall as “the greatest living American,” yet Truman and Marshall were on “a collision course” over Israel that “threatened to split and wreck the administration.” Simply put, “Marshall firmly opposed American recognition of the new Jewish state,” opposition that was “shared by almost every member of the brilliant and now-legendary group of men, later referred to as ‘the Wise Men,’ who were then in the process of creating a postwar foreign policy that would endure for more than forty years.” President Truman, in contrast, was a strong supporter of Israel, in large part because of his belief in the Bible. . . .

Interestingly, Clifford noted that Ben-Gurion and his advisors had not yet decided on a name for the Jewish state. “The name ‘Israel’ was as yet unknown,” Clifford wrote, “and most of us assumed the new nation would be called ‘Judaea.’” . . .

Also interesting is the fact that Truman’s support of the creation of the Jewish state was opposed by many American Jews, a fact unknown or forgotten by many friends of Israel.

“A significant number of Jewish Americans opposed Zionism,” Clifford wrote in his memoir. “Some feared that the effort to create a Jewish state was so controversial that the plan would fail. In 1942 a number of prominent Reform rabbis had founded the American Council for Judaism to oppose the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. It grew into an organization of over fourteen thousand members, which collaborated closely with State Department officials.” Clifford also noted that Arthur H. Sulzberger, the Jewish publisher of the New York Times, and Eugene Meyer, the Jewish publisher of the Washington Post, “opposed Zionism” as well.

Nevertheless, Truman had spoken favorably of the creation of a Jewish national homeland since not long after taking office. In 1947, for example, Truman had publicly made it the policy of the United States government to back passage of the United Nations Partition Plan, creating the legal framework for the rebirth of the State of Israel as well as an adjoining state for the Palestinian Arabs. To succeed, the Partition Plan needed a two-thirds majority vote of the U.N. General Assembly. With just days to go before that historic vote on November 29, 1947, however, supporters of the plan were still three votes short. Some have suggested that President Truman personally called leaders of other nations to encourage them to support the American position.

Others say he didn't but that staff in his administration did; the record is not clear. Either way, most historians - including David McCullough, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his extraordinary biography Truman - acknowledge that Truman wanted the plan to pass and played a role behind the scenes.

In the end, Truman got his way. The Partition Plan dramatically passed at the last moment, thirty-three to thirteen, with ten abstentions. . . .



Given Truman's backing of the Partition Plan, it would seem in retrospect that his decision to formally support the new state of Israel was a *fait accompli* [a thing that has already happened or been decided before those affected hear about it, leaving them with no option but to accept.] But the political crisis inside the White House and State Department was real and festering for the next two days. Tensions mounted, and time was running out. Reporters were asking what the president would do on the issue, and the advisors closest to the president had no clue. President Truman kept his cards close to his vest. Clifford later wrote that he thought "the chances for salvaging the situation were very small - but not quite zero."

By May 14, neither the secretary of state nor the secretary of defense nor any of the Cabinet or senior advisors knew which side the president would come down on. Then, a few hours before Ben-Gurion's scheduled announcement, an aide to Secretary of State George Marshall called Clifford at the White House to say that Marshall still did not support the creation of Israel but would not oppose the president publicly if he declared in favor. This was a significant breakthrough. With less than an hour to go, the State Department aide called back to suggest again that Secretary Marshall hoped the president would delay making any decision for more internal discussions, presumably over the next few days.

“Only thirty minutes . . . before the announcement would be made in Tel Aviv,” Clifford recalled, “the American segment of the drama was now coming to a climax.” Clifford told the aide he would check with President Truman and get back to the secretary. He waited three minutes, then called the aide back, saying delay was out of the question. Finally, at six o’clock, the president formally announced his final decision to Clifford. The United States would recognize and support the State of Israel. Truman handed his statement to Clifford, who immediately took it to the president’s press secretary, Charlie Ross. At 6:11 p.m., Ross read the statement to the press, and thus to the world:

Statement by the president. This government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine. . . . The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel.

- <https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/israel-turns-66-heres-the-story-of-how-the-u-s-almost-didnt-support-the-prophetic-rebirth-of-the-jewish-state-in-may-of-1948/>

We supported Israel then but look at how our nation today is turning their backs on Israel and supporting terrorist nations! We also need to keep in mind that not everyone was in agreement with this, Israel becoming a nation. The head of the Islamic Arabs, Husseini said, “I declare a holy war, my Moslem brothers! Murder the Jews! Murder them all!” And on May 15, 1948, at 5:25 AM, David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, broadcasting live from a Tel Aviv radio station, was expressing Israel’s thanks to America for their prompt recognition of the State of Israel.

As he spoke, suddenly, without warning, a loud explosion interrupted his speech. After a long pause, he said to his American audience, “A bomb has just fallen on this city from an enemy aircraft flying overhead.” The Arab’s war to “Drive the Jews into the sea” had begun.

These planes were flying overhead and they were also being hit with gun fire from a ship, but Israel had no air force to combat this attack against them, nor did they have an army. But they did have one Piper Cub that was piloted by one man and the second man on board threw Molotov cocktails down upon this ship that was firing into Israel. And, for some reason, the ship retreated and so did the army. And Israel was victorious in their first battle since they became a nation.

It was not by their might, not by their strength, but a work of God! And if anyone doesn't recognize that fact, that the Jews being in the land today is a miracle of God, they are not looking at the facts. Every war that Israel has been in since they became a nation, and there have been several that have been launched by the Arabs against Israel, the Jews should have been wiped out by them, for they are surrounded by 100 million people that are their enemies. But in each of these wars not only did Israel win, but they gained more land than before!

But make no mistake about it, the sentiment among the Arab nations, and they are Muslim in their faith has not changed, "I declare a holy war, my Moslem brothers! Murder the Jews! Murder them all!"

Now keep in mind, in spite of the miracles that the Jews have seen in these wars, and still see today, most of the nation is agnostic or they don't believe they can know God or they just reject Him totally. But you can't deny the miracles!

And we see that even today as God is working with His people. We are told with the conflict in Gaza last year, in 2014,

Israel Today translated a report from a Hebrew-language news site, which noted the Iron Dome battery failed three times to intercept an incoming rocket headed toward Tel Aviv last week.

The commander recalled: “A missile was fired from Gaza. Iron Dome precisely calculated [its trajectory]. We know where these missiles are going to land down to a radius of 200 meters. This particular missile was going to hit either the Azrieli Towers, the Kirya (Israel’s equivalent of the Pentagon) or [a central Tel Aviv railway station]. Hundreds could have died.

“We fired the first [interceptor]. It missed. Second [interceptor]. It missed. This is very rare. I was in shock. At this point we had just four seconds until the missile lands. We had already notified emergency services to converge on the target location and had warned of a mass-casualty incident.

“Suddenly, Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) shows a major wind coming from the east, a strong wind that . . . sends the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and shouted, ‘There is a God!’

“I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes. It was not told or reported to me. I saw the hand of God send that missile into the sea.”

. . . Barbara Ordman, who lives in Ma’ale Adumim on the West Bank.

Her exact quotation was: “As one of the terrorists from Gaza was reported to say when asked why they couldn’t aim their rockets more effectively: “We do aim them, but their God changes their path in mid-air.”

- <http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/hand-of-god-sent-missile-into-sea/>

2. Now ultimately this is looking ahead to the Kingdom Age when God will pour out His Spirit upon them, they will be reborn again. Many Jews will get saved during the Tribulation Period and the nation as a whole at the end of the Tribulation will get saved or as Paul said, ***“All Israel will be saved!”***

3. We need to remember that it is only by the impartation of God's life-giving Spirit can there be such a revival in Israel and in the lives of people today! Now if you have ever taught a Bible study or tried to share your faith with others, you may have wondered to yourself, "***Can these dry bones live?***"

You may have felt very much like Ezekiel did and what did God tell Ezekiel to do? Speak forth the Words of God to these dead, dry bones! Why? Because they can live again! The Words of Jesus are Spirit and truth, they are life and they are 100% truth.

You don't have to defend it, but just share it. Share it with those that are dead, and as silly as that may sound, God's Word will not return void but accomplish what He desires in that person's life, if they allow Him to.

Open the Word of God up and share the Scriptures with those around you because it will always impact people in some way. Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 4:12, "**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**"

So you are to share the Word of God with them and then you are to pray for them. You talk to them about the Lord and then you talk to the Lord about them. And never give up on anyone no matter how dead, how dry, how lifeless they may look! Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 19:26, "**... 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'**"

4. One more point here and that is from Yates who applies this to our lives today. He wrote,

With weirdness, realism and dramatic force the prophet presents the heartening news that Israel may hope to live. A revival is possible! Even dry bones, without sinew and flesh and blood, can live. The coming of God's Spirit brings life. The same thrilling truth is still needed in a world that has dry bones everywhere. What we need is to have the Holy Spirit come with His quickening power that a genuine revival may sweep the earth.

- Kyle M. Yates, Preaching, p. 184

### VERSES 15-22

1. Now, as hard as this may be to believe, there are those who interpret these verses this way. The stick of Judah represents the Bible and the stick of Joseph represents the book of Mormon! I am sorry to say that you could not come up with that on your own no matter how hard you try by just reading the Scriptures. Someone had to tell you that is what it means. Joseph Smith and the Mormon Church have missed the boat on this one; they aren't even in the water!

The Scriptures themselves tell us what these two sticks represent, and I will trust what God has to say over what man has to say any day. Judah represents the Southern Kingdom of Judah while Ephraim, the son of Joseph, represents the Northern Kingdom of Israel with its capitol being in Ephraim.

If you remember in our study through I Kings, under the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, the nation was divided into two separate kingdoms. This division of the nations took place in around 931 B. C. as Rehoboam ruled the Southern Kingdom of Judah, with its two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Jeroboam ruled the other 10 tribes and they were called the Northern Kingdom of Israel. One kingdom was divided into two separate kingdoms now.

Then, in 722 B. C. the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians for their idolatry and their refusal to repent and get right with God. And, the Southern Kingdom of Judah, not learning the lessons from her sister to the north, was taken into captivity in 586 B. C. by the Babylonians.

But now the Lord is saying that no longer will they be two separate nations, but one nation unto the Lord! This has not happened in its fullness yet. One writer put it like this. He wrote,

It must be said immediately that the north and the south of Israel never did reunite politically. They never again gained independence and gradually submerged into the Persian, Greek, Seleucid, Roman, Turkish, and other empires, respectively. Therefore if one looks for a political fulfillment for this passage, it will not be found – and certainly not in the modern Jewish state that has taken the name Israel, since in that state only 5 percent of the population is actively religious, and Christ, the true son of David, is more firmly rejected there than almost anywhere else. However, if one carefully looks at the passage's language, it becomes clear that this is a prediction of the eschatological new age, and the reality goes far beyond mere political considerations of this-worldly sort.

- Douglas Stuart, *The Preacher's Commentary – Ezekiel*, p. 338

I do see the nation of Israel today as a partial fulfillment of what is said here in Ezekiel. You see, when Israel came back into the land back in 1948, this is one of the issues that was debated. Should they be a divided nation, a divided kingdom as it was under King Rehoboam and King Jeroboam, or should they be a united kingdom as it was under King David?

After they debated for a while, they decided that it was God's will, God's desire for them to be a united kingdom, and that is what we see in Israel today. There is no Northern Kingdom of Israel or Southern Kingdom of Judah, but one nation just as God said would occur. And literally we will see this fulfilled in the Kingdom Age, as we see in verses 21 and 22.

I realize that as some read these verses they like to argue that this has already taken place in Israel today, as they have become a nation once again. I disagree with that, in the sense that the complete fulfillment of what is spoken here has not taken place yet. I believe that what is spoken of here will be fulfilled in the not too distant future. You see, the last King to reign in Israel, specifically the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was Zedekiah. And he was blinded by the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar and then taken away captive to Babylon. Since that time they have not had a King over them. But one day they will!

Today the government in Israel is a Parliament not a monarchy like it was during the time of David. But one day they will have a King over them. Not an earthly King, but the Lord Himself will rule and reign from Jerusalem.

It is as Isaiah 60:1-3 says, "**Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**"

God will once again shine down upon His people and restore them in the Kingdom Age. And of this time Daniel tells us, "**And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**"

Daniel 2:44.



Also, in Revelation 11:15-18 we are told, **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.’”**

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is coming back to take that which was taken away from Adam by Satan, this earth. And He has and will continue to spiritually restore man, and He will physically restore this earth to the days prior to the fall. And He will rule and reign in righteousness. That is what we are looking forward to, gathering together in Jerusalem with our Lord and escaping the fire of His judgment through Jesus Christ.

### VERSE 23

1. What is interesting here is not only is the Lord speaking of the idols they worshiped but also their backsliding. You see, the Hebrew word translated **“dwelling places”** is backsliding in other ancient manuscripts. In Hebrew, the two words differ in the placement of one letter. So God is going to heal them and cleanse them!

The only way they can be clean, the only way anyone can be cleansed, is by the blood of Jesus Christ, which washes away *ALL* of our sins. It is as John said, **“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. . . . If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** I John 1:7, 9.

God has done that for all men but not all will receive that cleansing into their lives. But, as the Scriptures say, one day the Jews, as a nation, will turn to Jesus and be cleansed of their sins, they will receive that cleansing into their lives!

#### VERSES 24-28

1. Notice that this is speaking of David as being King over them and I believe this is speaking of the Son of David, Jesus Christ who will rule and reign from Jerusalem! Thus, this is looking into the future, after the Tribulation Period into the Millennial Kingdom! Yes the Jews are in the land right now but when the Antichrist comes they will be scattered at the 3½ year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period. It is when the Lord returns that He gathers them back into the land never to be removed again! No longer will the nations come against Israel or the Jews but they will know the Lord and they will honor the Jews!

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 24:29-31, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”** Jesus will gather the Jews from the four corners of the world and He will dwell with His people forever! That day is fast approaching!

2. Next time as we get into Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 we will see a war break out against Israel once they have been established in the land. And folks, they have been established in the land since 1948, and they have occupied the old city of Jerusalem since 1968. This war against Israel can take place at any moment, as we shall see next time!

I realize that many Christians are anxious about the days we are living in. They see the atrocities, the immorality that is going on and they lose hope. The problem is they have placed their hope in the wrong place. You can't place your hope in this world, in any person except Jesus Christ!

God is in control, He has warned us of what will come to pass so we should not be taken by surprise. Paul reminds us in Romans 15:4, **“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

I pray we look to the Scriptures to learn what God has for us, to learn about Him, to learn about us. And as we learn from the Scriptures they will help us to grow in patience and perseverance. May we take comfort in them knowing that God is in control and He has told us the things that will take place before they will happen! That is our hope and we can rest in that, we can rest in the Lord, the ***GOD OF ALL COMFORT!***