FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 37

BOOK OF EZEKIEL — OUTLINE

	INWARD → Personal	OUTWARD ← Peoples	ONWARD |→ Prophetic
CHAPTERS	1 — 3	4 — 24	25 — 32	33 — 48
	Ezekiel's Call to Ministry	**Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem**	**Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel**	**Restoration of Israel in the Future**

	• Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC)
	• 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25
	• 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30
		• A Disobedient Nation (**4-7**)
		• A Departed Glory (**8-11**)
		• A Disciplined Nation (**12-24**)
		  • The Futility of False Optimism (**12-19**)
		  • The History of Judah's Corruption (**20-24**)
			• Ammon (**25:1-7**)
			• Moab (**25:8-11**)
			• Edom (**25:12-14**)
			• Philistia (**25:15-17**)
			• Tyre (**26:1—28:19**)
			• Sidon (**28:20-24**)
			• Egypt (**29-32**)
				• Return of Israel to the land (**33-39**)
				• Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (**40-48**)
				• Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God

593BC	**Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem**	587BC **Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem**	586BC **Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem**	571BC
	The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT			**The City Restored** 15 Years Prophesying HOPE



Author: Ezekiel ("God strengthens") **Place:** Babylonia **Time:** About 22 years (593-571BC)

Events:

605BC	— FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken)	Ezekiel 17 years old
597BC	— SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken)	Ezekiel 25 years old
593BC	— Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel	Ezekiel 30 years old
586BC	— THIRD assult upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed)	Ezekiel 37 years old

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 37

- Ezekiel 37 vividly illustrates the promise of Ezekiel 36.
- God had just announced that Israel will be restored to her land in blessing under the leadership of David her king.
- This seemed remote in light of Israel's present condition.
- Most Israelites may have doubted God's promise of restoration.



INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 37

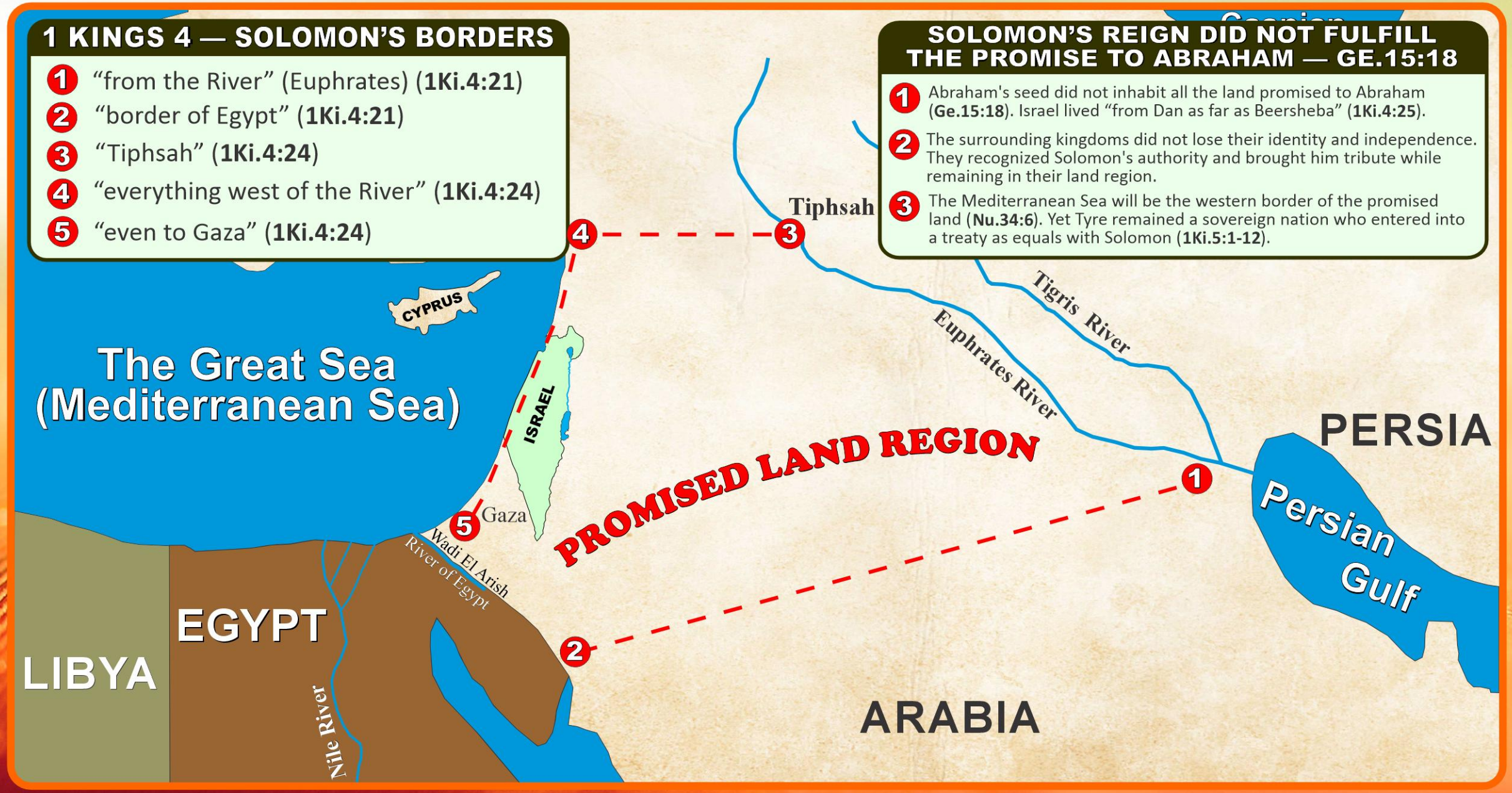
- She was “dead” as a nation — deprived of her land, her king, and her temple.
- She had been divided and dispersed for so long that unification and restoration seemed impossible.
- God gave two signs (Ek.37:1-14, dry bones and 37:15-28, two sticks) to Ezekiel to illustrate the fact of restoration and confirm the promises just made.



INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 37

- Most Israelites may have doubted God's promise of restoration.
- Their present condition militated against the possibility of that being fulfilled.
- So God stressed the fact of His sovereign power and ability to carry out these remarkable promises.
- Their fulfillment depended on Him, not on circumstances.




1 KINGS 4 — SOLOMON'S BORDERS
1 "from the River" (Euphrates) (1Ki.4:21)
2 "border of Egypt" (1Ki.4:21)
3 "Tiphsah" (1Ki.4:24)
4 "everything west of the River" (1Ki.4:24)
5 "even to Gaza" (1Ki.4:24)
SOLOMON'S REIGN DID NOT FULFILL THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM — GE.15:18
1 Abraham's seed did not inhabit all the land promised to Abraham (Ge.15:18). Israel lived "from Dan as far as Beersheba" (1Ki.4:25).
2 The surrounding kingdoms did not lose their identity and independence. They recognized Solomon's authority and brought him tribute while remaining in their land region.
3 The Mediterranean Sea will be the western border of the promised land (Nu.34:6). Yet Tyre remained a sovereign nation who entered into a treaty as equals with Solomon (1Ki.5:1-12).
Tiphsah
Tigris River
Euphrates River
CYPRUS
The Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea)
ISRAEL
PROMISED LAND REGION
PERSIA
Gaza
Wadi El Arish
River of Egypt
Persian Gulf
EGYPT
LIBYA
Nile River
ARABIA


VISION OF
THE DRY BONES
REVIVED
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Tom Elseroad • 2026-05-09 • Ezekiel-Slide.cdr


THE
VISION
Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

EZEKIEL 37:1





The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. (Ek.37:1)

- **Ezekiel reported the vision (Ek.37:1-10) and then interpreted it (Ek.37:11-14).**

- **God transported Ezekiel by the Sprit (Ek.3:14; 8:3; 11:1, 24; 43:5) to a valley full of bones.**



Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.



EZEKIEL 37:2



Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. (Ek.37:2)

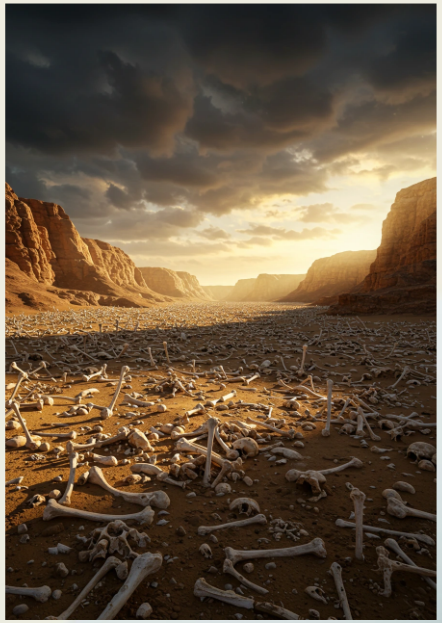
- **There he noticed that the bones were very dry, bleached and baked under the hot sun.**
- **This may have been the same valley (or plain) in which Ezekiel saw his vision of God's glory (Ek.3:22).**
- **In this vision, the prophet walked around among the many very dry bones that littered this valley.**
- **The bones represent the Israelites slain during the conquest of the land and now in exile for a very long time.**



And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

EZEKIEL 37:3

And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." (Ek.37:3)



- God asked the prophet a remarkable question: Son of man, can these bones live?
- Was there potential for life in these lifeless frames?
- Ezekiel knew that humanly speaking it was impossible, so his answer was somewhat guarded (Rv.7:14).
- Ezekiel believed God could give them life, but he did not know if that is what God would do.



Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!



EZEKIEL 37:4



Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! (Ek.37:4)

- God then directed Ezekiel to prophesy to these bones.



- The Lord also instructed Ezekiel to prophesy over the dry bones and to tell them to hear His word.

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

EZEKIEL 37:5





Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. (Ek.37:5)

- The content of his message was God's promised restoration.
- "Breath" (*rûaḥ*) could also be translated "wind" or "spirit." In Ezekiel 37:14 the same word is translated "Spirit." Genesis 2:7 may have been in mind.
- In creating man, He transformed Adam into a living being by breathing into his nostrils "the breath of life."
- The results were obvious. God gave life to these dead bones.



I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 37:6

I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.37:6)

- **The Lord told the bones that He would cause breath (wind or spirit) to enter them and they would come back to life (Ho.6:2).**



After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. (**Ho.6:2**).

- **He would also put sinews on the bones, make flesh grow back on them, cover them with skin, and put breath in them.**
- **They would come back to life and know that He is Yahweh.**



So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.



EZEKIEL 37:7



So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. (Ek.37:7)

- As Ezekiel was giving this prophecy, he saw a remarkable thing.

- The bones came together (Ek.37:7), flesh developed, skin covered them (Ek.37:8), breath entered them, and they stood up (Ek.37:10).



Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.



EZEKIEL 37:8



Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. (Ek.37:8)

- **Ezekiel spoke to the bones as the Lord had commanded him, and as he did he heard a rattling noise as the bones began to come together.**

- **The prophet saw sinew, flesh, and skin come back on them, but there was no breath in them; they were not yet alive.**



Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

EZEKIEL 37:9

Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." (Ek.37:9)



- **The Lord then told Ezekiel to prophesy to the breath and to command it in the name of the Lord to come from the four winds (i.e., every direction) and give life to the bones (Is.43:5-6; Je.31:8).**

- **Something remarkable happened, but the hearers were still dead men.**

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



EZEKIEL 37:10



So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. (Ek.37:10)



- Ezekiel followed the Lord's instructions, and breath came into the corpses (Ge.2:7; Ro.8:1-17).

- They came to life, stood up, and formed a very large group of people, as large as an army.


THE
INTERPRETATION
Ezekiel 37:11-14

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'

EZEKIEL 37:11

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' (Ek.37:11)

- What does this vision refer to?
- God said it was about the nation of Israel (the whole house of Israel) that was then in captivity.
- Like unburied skeletons, the people were pining away and saw no end to their judgment (“our hope is lost”).
- The Israelites were saying that they were like dry bones: they had been dead for a very long time spiritually as well as physically.



Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

EZEKIEL 37:12

Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. (Ek.37:12)

- **Israel had “died” in the flames of Babylon’s attack, and had no hope of resurrection.**
- **The vision showed that Israel’s new life depended on God’s power, not outward circumstances.**
- **The Lord had cut them off completely; the bones were separated from each other, and the Israelites were scattered over the earth.**
- **Ezekiel was to prophesy to them that the sovereign Lord would open their graves, and bring them into the Promised Land.**



Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.





EZEKIEL 37:13

Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. (Ek.37:13)

- **The reviving of the dry bones signified Israel's national restoration.**
- **The Lord explained to Ezekiel that the bones represented the whole house of Israel (Ek.36:10).**
- **This chapter then does not deal with the doctrine of the personal bodily resurrection but with national resurrection.**



I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.

EZEKIEL 37:14

I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD. (Ek.37:14)

- When God restores Israel nationally, He will renew them spiritually.



- The breath of life the corpses received symbolized the Holy Spirit, promised in Israel's New Covenant (Ek.36:24-28).

- This would teach them that He is God ("then you shall know").



I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD. (Ek.37:14)

- The Israelites residing in the land of Israel today (since 1948) are perhaps the beginning fulfillment of this prophecy.
- But it will be fulfilled when God regathers believing Israelites to the land (Je.31:33; 33:14-16).
- It will be fulfilled during Daniel's 70th Week with the 144,000 witnesses as the foundation for the future believing nation of Israel.
- This could genuinely be termed a 'rebirth' of the nation (Ro.11:26-27).



SIGN OF THE TWO STICKS UNITED

Ezekiel 37:15-28


THE SIGN
DESCRIBED
Ezekiel 37:15-17

Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,



EZEKIEL 37:15



Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.37:15)

- **Ezekiel's second sign in this chapter visualized God's restoration of the nation.**

- **Ezekiel describes the sign of the two sticks (Ek.37:15-17) and then explains it (Ek.37:18-28)**



"As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for 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.'

EZEKIEL 37:16

"As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for 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.' (Ek.37:16)

- **Ezekiel was told to take two sticks of wood and to write on one of them the name of Judah and on the other the names of Ephraim and Joseph.**



"As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for 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.' (Ek.37:16)

- After Solomon died the nation of Israel split asunder, in 931 B.C.
- The Southern Kingdom was known as Judah because Judah was its larger tribe and because the country was ruled by a king from that tribe (1Ki.12:22-24).
- The Northern Kingdom was called Israel, or sometimes Ephraim (Ho.5:3, 5, 11-14) either because Ephraim was the strongest and most influential tribe or because the first king of Israel, Jeroboam I, was an Ephraimite (1Ki.11:26).
- Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria in 722 B.C., and Judah was taken into exile by Babylon in 605, 597, and 586 B.C.



Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.



EZEKIEL 37:17



Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand. (Ek.37:17)

- Ezekiel was then to hold them end to end so they appeared to be one stick.



- Some have falsely claimed that the two sticks represent the Bible (the stick of Judah) and the Book of Mormon (the stick of Joseph).

- However, this assertion ignores the clear interpretation in Ek.37:18-28 and seeks to impose a foreign meaning on the sticks.


THE SIGN
EXPLAINED
Ezekiel 37:18-28

And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?'—

EZEKIEL 37:18

And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?'— (Ek.37:18)

- **This promise refutes the teaching of British Israelism, and other groups who hold that the 10 northern tribes were lost and later became some other national entity (Is.43:5-7; 49:5-6; Je.3:12-15).**



say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:
"Surely I will take the stick of Joseph,
which is in the hand of Ephraim, and
the tribes of Israel, his companions;
and I will join them with it, with the
stick of Judah, and make them one
stick, and they will be one in My hand."

EZEKIEL 37:19

say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." (Ek.37:19)

- **The uniting of the sticks pictured God's restoring and reuniting His people in the land as a single nation (Ho.1:11).**



Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel! (**Ho.1:11**).



And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.



EZEKIEL 37:20



And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. (Ek.37:20)

- The prophet was to hold these sticks, on which he had written what the Lord told him, in the sight of the exiles.
- Ezekiel was given an object lesson that his people observed.
- This drama of uniting two sticks offered a second illustration that God will regather the Israelites to their land.



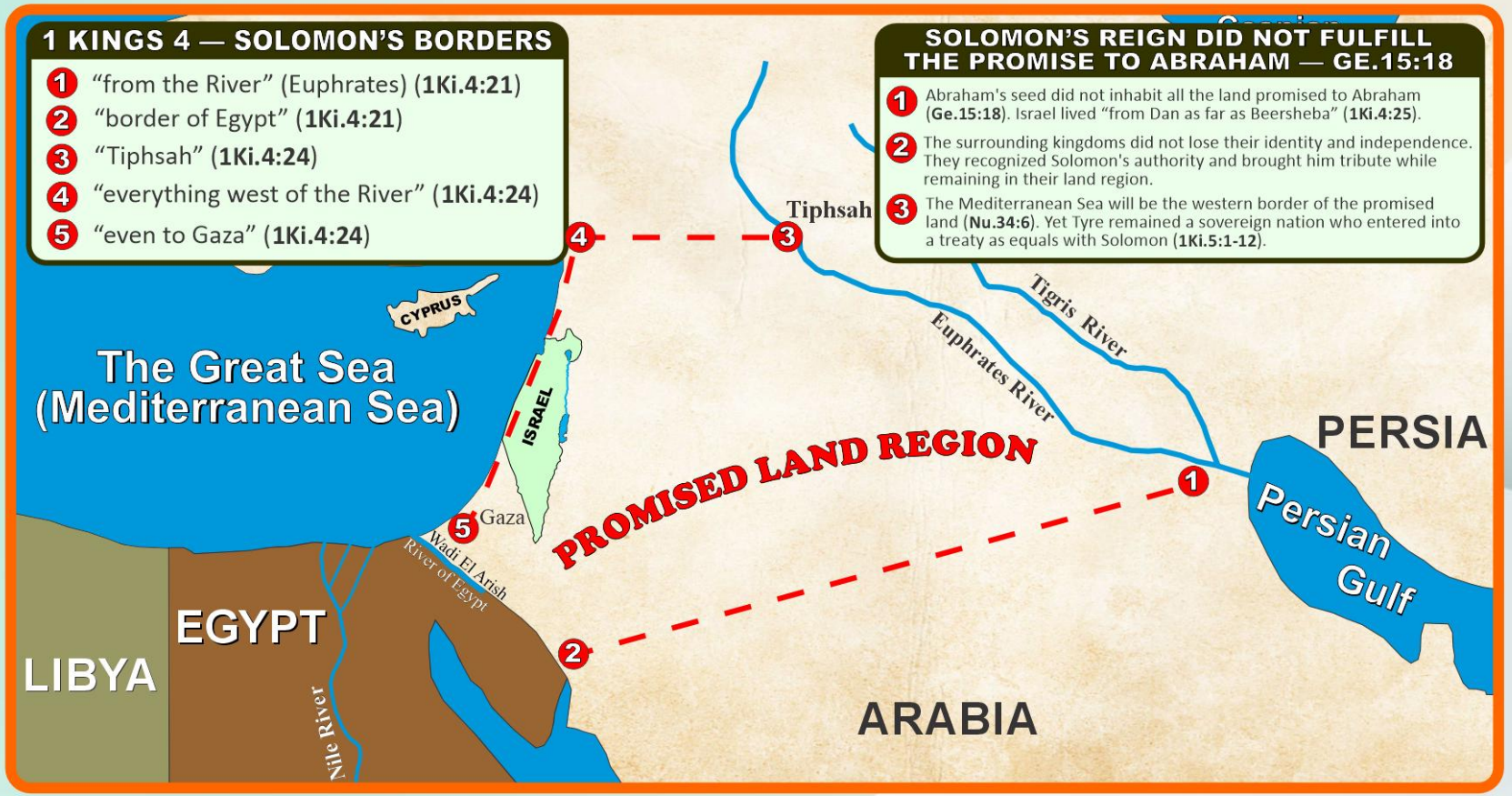
- Since 931 B.C. (end of Solomon's reign) Israel has been divided. God will restore the nations as one in the messianic kingdom (Is.11:12-13; Je.3:18; Ho.1:11).

Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

EZEKIEL 37:21

Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; (Ek.37:21)

- **He was to explain that Yahweh promised to bring exiles from both kingdoms back into the land.**



and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

EZEKIEL 37:22

and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. (Ek.37:22)

- God would make one united kingdom of them again and set up one king over all of them (Ge.12:1-3, 7; 16:10; 17:7-9; 22:17-18; 28:4; 28:13-15).
- They would no longer be two nations, a divided kingdom.



They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

EZEKIEL 37:23





They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. (Ek.37:23)

- Cleansed from their backsliding they will be My people, God said, and I will be their God (Ek.11:20; 14:11; 36:28; 37:27).
- These Jews would no longer defile themselves with idols, other detestable things, or transgressions of the Lord's (Mosaic) covenant.
- The Lord promised to deliver them from the many places where they had gone and sinned and to cleanse them (Je.31:31-34).
- Then they would enter into a proper relationship with Him.



NATIONAL IDENTITY — EZEKIEL 37

- Territory (v.21, land)
- Political (v.22, one king)
  - Restoration
  - Unification
- Spiritual (v.23, cleansed)
  - Purification



David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.



EZEKIEL 37:24



David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. (Ek.37:24)

- **When united, Israel will be led by King David himself (Ek.34:23-24). As God's servant, he will be their one shepherd.**

- **They will have an eternal inheritance there and David will be their prince.**



Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

EZEKIEL 37:25

Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. (Ek.37:25)

- **Then God repeated the blessings to be bestowed on the people in the land.**
- **God's servant David would rule over the Jews and be their king (Ek.34:24; 2Sm.7:13, 16; Je.30:9; Ho.3:5).**
- **They would have only one king who would shepherd them so that they would follow the Lord faithfully.**
- **They would live in the Promised Land forever, and the Lord's servant David would be their appointed ruler forever.**



Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.



EZEKIEL 37:26



Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. (Ek.37:26)

- **God’s covenant of peace (Ek.36:15; Is.54:10) will be established with them, and His presence will remain with them forever (in contrast with the departing of His glory, Ezek. 9-11).**

- **In view of God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-13, this most likely refers to the Son of David, Messiah. Yet, many believe it may be David himself. Believing it refers to David shows they understood a resurrection was necessary.**



My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

EZEKIEL 37:27

My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Ek.37:27)

- The visible reminder of God's presence will be His sanctuary, His dwelling place.
- Then again God added, I will be their God, and they will be My people (Ek.11:20; 14:11; 36:28; 37:23).
- These promises anticipate the detailed plans for God's new sanctuary (chaps. 40-43).
- His dwelling place would be with them forever, and He would also establish an intimate relationship with them.



The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.



EZEKIEL 37:28



The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore. (Ek.37:28)

- This literal structure will serve as a visual object lesson to Israel and the nations of God's presence in the midst of His people.
- God would also set His sanctuary in their midst forever (Ek.20:40; 40:5 — 43:9; Zc.6:12-13), not temporarily as He had done with the tabernacle and temple.



ISRAEL & CHURCH FULFILLMENT

- Some argue that the church is the new 'Israel' through which the Old Testament promise is fulfilled.
- Some insisting on a sharp distinction between Israel and the church, propose that the new covenant mentioned in the New Testament is distinct from the one promised in the Old Testament.
- Just because the New Testament focuses on a present realization through the church does not preclude a future fulfillment for Israel.
- An 'already/not yet' model sees a present realization of the promises in the church and a future fulfillment for ethnic Israel.



FUTURE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

EZEKIEL 37