

Pentwater Bible Church

Ezekiel Message 79
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Dentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel Message Seventy-Nine

THE VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES PROPHECY PART I

April 9, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of Jehovah, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ²And he caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. ³And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord Jehovah, thou knowest. ⁴Again he said unto me, Prophecy over these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. ⁵Thus saith the Lord Jehovah unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah.

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and, behold, an earthquake; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I beheld, and, lo, there were sinews upon them, and flesh came up, and skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

¹¹Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off. ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And ye shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it and performed it, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

THE PROPHET IS SPIRITIZED & TRANSPORTED TO ISRAEL

Ezekiel 37:1-2

The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of Jehovah, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones, ²And he caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel is about to enter a new state of awareness. God is taking him to a state we may call spinitization. God lives in a state of existence which is outside of time and space. Our existence is the physical creation. The physical universe, and space all emerged in one single event of creation inside the word “beginning” (Hebrew *Rasheet*) as Genesis 1:1 cites. In other words God created the earth, heavens and all that is in them out of one single creative event within the onset of the domain of time. The Hebrew text of Genesis 1:1 reads “*In beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” It does not say in the beginning but rather just in beginning. This implies that within the first instance of time the creation was formed out of it. But outside of time and the creation is where God exists and where we will go after we are released from these bodies. Ezekiel had the privilege to enter the eternal domain to commune with God and receive a most unique message. The apostle John had a similar (Revelation 4:1-2) blessing to be able, while still in the body, to behold Heaven and the Throne Room of God. Isaiah saw this (Isaiah 6:1-13) as did Daniel (Daniel 7:1-28). These three prophets were all privileged to experience a unique message regarding a future earthly event of some sort. Ezekiel was communing with God to receive the message of the complete resurrection of the nation Israel.

God *takes* him out into a valley to show him what will come to pass in the future history of Israel. Ezekiel is in Babylon. In chapter three verse twenty-two he is told by God to *physically go* to a valley on his own to receive a revelation from Him. He cites the location in Babylon by the river Chebar where upon God’s Spirit enters him and speaks to him. In this instance the circumstances are different though. Here God enters Ezekiel and *transports him* to the valley under consideration to receive the prophecy. Since it is called “The Valley” it must mean the Jezreel Valley in Israel, not the valley of chapter three in Babylon. The Jezreel Valley today is just referred to “The Valley.” The discussion that will ensue from this point forward is a vivid description of the resurrection of Israel in the land of Israel not in Babylon. As seen in chapter thirty-six The Valley was reborn in the second stage of the four that will finalize the complete resurrection of Israel. Those stages are:

1. The Zionist Movement
2. The end of WW I and the establishment of the Mandate
3. End of WW II and the creation of the sovereign State of Israel
4. The National Regeneration of Israel and beginning of the Messianic Kingdom

The valley is covered with bones. Ezekiel also makes the observation that there was a large volume of the bones and they *were very dry*. These bones filled the Valley therefore they were scattered about and not in piles. This is an indication that they were not produced in a single event but over a great length of time. So they have been without life for a great length of time. No vivid life had been in them for an extended period. For example, from the time of the last invasion of Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. to the rebirth of the nation Israel in 1948 Israel had been without life for 2,534 years.

As Ezekiel receives this message it is important to notice that the Israelites were familiar with the doctrine of the Resurrection or this message would have had little meaning to the recipients (I Kings 17: II Kings 4:13-37; 13:21; Isaiah 25:8; 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Hosea 13:14). This central focus of this revelation is not about individual’s coming back to life in the nation although that is a component of the whole revelation. It is about the entire

nation coming back as a whole sovereign entity on this earth. God also affirmed this through the prophet Hosea (Hosea 6:2).

CAN THESE BONES LIVE AGAIN?

Ezekiel 37:3-6

³And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord Jehovah, thou knowest. ⁴Again he said unto me, Prophecy over these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. ⁵Thus saith the Lord Jehovah unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Once the Jews in Babylon realized that they were not going to be rescued and would be there for a long time they began to sense the human hopelessness of their situation (Ezekiel 37:11). To address this sense of despair God asks Ezekiel, “*Son of man, can these bones live?*” Humanly speaking the answer is no. But Ezekiel responds with a reverent response *O Lord Jehovah, thou knowest*, indicating that to bring the bleached bones back to life would require a supernatural power way beyond anything humanly possible. This is the point of the entire resurrection of the nation Israel. It was all accomplished by the God of the universe to demonstrate to the world that it is Him doing it. Ezekiel is then commanded to prophecy over the bones. It is important to note that this is the reason for prophecy in the Bible. It is speaking on God’s behalf of events which He only had foreordained to occur. It is not man’s speculation or individual expressions of what revelations are seemingly coming to pass in the future. It is just God speaking.

First God says that the Spirit of breath (Hebrew *rooach*) will come into you giving life meaning the nation Israel. From this first stage God then describes another stage which is the muscles coming upon the bones then the flesh covers the bones and breath promised enters the bodies and they live. God reaffirms His reasons for all prophetic passages in the Bible are to bring Glory to Himself and make all aware of the fact of His existence as our Creator and Sustainer. In describing the different aspects or stages of the bones coming together and finally coming to life He is giving us an illustration of the stages of the nation Israel coming back to life

THE PROPHET FOLLOWS GOD’S COMMANDS

Ezekiel 37:7-10

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and, behold, an earthquake; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I beheld, and, lo, there were sinews upon them, and flesh came up, and skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Ezekiel does as the Lord commands and first says, “*behold, an earthquake.*” This caused the bones to come together forming bodies. Then the sinews were laid upon the bones in stage two. Stage three sees flesh covering them and stage four is the breath of life from God causes them to stand up and He calls the result *an exceeding great army*. The source of this breath is cited as from the *from the four winds*. This is a general reference to the entire earth. So the four stages are:

1. Earthquake causing the bones to come together
2. Sinews (muscles) coming upon the bones
3. Skin or flesh covers the bones and sinews
4. Breath of God’s Spirit enters them.

One way to explain this discussion of the body (The Whole House of Israel) coming together in stages is to compare it to what has happened to them already and what will happen in the future.

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| 1. Bones coming together | Zionist movement coming back to Israel |
| 2. Sinews coming on the bones | WW I and the League of Nations Mandate |
| 3. Flesh covering the body | WW II causing the UN to give Israel Land |
| 4. Breath of God’s Spirit | Israel’s National Regeneration |

The first three stages are all in the past. Their final regathering also will be as Jesus described in Matthew from *the four winds*. This final regathering will also include the inhabitants of Heaven in addition to those from the entire earth.

Matthew 24:30-31

³⁰ “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. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other (MEV).

Stage four is a future event at the end of the Tribulation when they cry out to God in belief in their Messiah the Lord Jesus (Matthew 23:39). They will mourn over the way they rejected Jesus.

Zechariah 12:12-14

“¹²And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; ¹³the family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of the Shimeites apart, and their wives apart; ¹⁴all the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.” (ASV, 1901)

These verses describe the extent of the mourning in every family from the leaders of the government and the Temple down to the general population. All will mourn in national repentance for the way they rejected the Lord Jesus when He came the first time.

ISRAEL'S FINAL RESTORATION

Ezekiel 37:11-13

¹¹Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off. ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And ye shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people (ASV, 1901).

God now explains to Ezekiel the nature of the prophecy. The bones represent *the whole house of Israel*. And He says that they are despairing by saying, “*our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.*” God promises a resurrection of the land and their saints who have died knowing God when He says, “*when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people.*” This regathering of all the Jews who know God and confess Her Messiah is expressed in many prophetic books. The size of the final regathering for example is expressed by the Lord in Isaiah.

Isaiah 43:5-7

⁵Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the end of the earth; ⁷every one that is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yea, whom I have made (ASV, 1901).

The regathering will be worldwide, and stressing this fact God references all four points of the compass. Then the magnitude is illustrated by the usage of three words: *created*, *formed* and *made*. God used three words in the creation account of Genesis 1–2. Once He *created* then from the creation He *formed* and *made* all that is within it including mankind. So from God's perspective, the final regathering will be on the magnitude of the original creation.

GOD'S SPIRIT ENTERS THE JEWS

Ezekiel 37:14

¹⁴And I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it and performed it, saith Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Finally God says that He, “*will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live.*” This is when the New Covenant will be inaugurated. God told us this through the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²not according to the

covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith Jehovah. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith Jehovah: I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know Jehovah; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith Jehovah: for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more (ASV, 1901).

It is God's Spirit that is the final stage of the restoration of Israel and will usher them into the Messianic Kingdom as genuine born again believers of the Messiah King Jesus. Only the Lord can provide salvation. God promises salvation to those who confess His name.

Zechariah 10:12

¹²And I will strengthen them in Jehovah; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith Jehovah." (ASV, 1901)

It is overwhelming to assimilate the prophecies stated so far in this section of Scripture. The Lord will re-gather the Jews from all the places in the world where He has scattered them. Then He will remove every obstacle in the way of their return back to the Land. Finally, as stated in verse twelve, He will provide a plentiful outpouring of His Spirit to enable the Jews to do marvelous works in His name. His revealed character will then be fully and gloriously manifested in their midst in the person of Jesus their Messiah, the very image of the invisible God. This prophecy concludes with a divine seal making certain that the whole prophetic panorama of them returning to the Land is accomplished. God is affirming His pledge to enable the Jews to take command of the Land and the earth as well as He says they will "*walk up and down in his name, saith Jehovah.*" "*Walking up and down*" means moving back and forth, looking over their Land that they now own.

As in all of God's action it is to Glorify Himself. Affirming this He ends this section of Ezekiel by saying, "*and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it and performed it, saith Jehovah.*"

Next Week: RESURRECTION DAY JESUS INAUGURATED THE NEW COVENANT

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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