

Abraham's Dry Bones LIVE !

"One of the perennial enigmas of Biblical prophecy has been the Gog and Magog event described in Ezekiel 38 & 39."i
The Book of Ezekiel is divided into prophecies before the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, chapters 1-32, and those made afterward, chapters 33-48. The themes of chapters 37-39 are:

1. The Vision of the Dry Bones, chapter 37
2. The enemies Gog and Magog and their destruction, chapter 38
3. The Glory of God shown to Israel in the defeat of Gog, chapter 39

Jewish Awareness Ministries Bible Series Topics

1. The Integral Identity of the Dry Bones by the Abrahamic Covenant - Ezekiel chapter 37
2. The Heathen Identity of the Invaders - Ezekiel chapter 38, Part 1
3. The Timing of the Invasion - Ezekiel chapter 38, Part 2 Evidence for a mid-Tribulation view of the invasion.
4. The Purpose of the Invasion - Ezekiel chapter 39
 - A. That Israel may know that He is God (39:21-23)
 - B. That the nations may know His Glory through Israel in their midst.

The Primacy of the Abrahamic Covenant

"It is recognized by all serious students of the Bible that the covenant of God with Abraham is one of the important and determinative revelations of Scripture. It furnishes the key to the entire Old Testament and reaches for its fulfillment into the New."²

"...the Holy Spirit is trying to say to all believers, right in the heart of your theology must be found the Jew. In the center of all your doctrines, ascertain God's purpose with Israel. Untold confusion and error have flown from failure to do this. Israel is the key to all dispensational arrangements. God's mystery of the ages will yield itself to no other key. Keep Israel in the center of your theological reckoning if a balance is to be maintained."³

"Understanding Ezekiel 36 – 39: the Gog/Magog invasion of Israel, in light of the primacy

of the Abrahamic Covenant. Israel's sin brought God's discipline upon the nation of Israel and they were scattered to all the countries of the world.

Ezekiel 36:18,19 "Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them."

"Holy" and "Profane" Ezekiel 36:20-22: These two words are important in understanding what God is going to do for Israel, from their dispersion in 70 A.D, through the end of chapter 39

"Profane" Ilx-khaw-lal - Irreverent to anything holy; not purified or holy; allowed for common use.

Ezekiel 36:20-22 "And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they **profaned** my **holy** name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine **holy** name, which the house of Israel had **profaned** among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for

your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine **holy** name's sake, which ye have **profaned** among the heathen, whither ye went.”

Exodus 19:6

“Holy nation”

Amos 3:2

“And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Zechariah 2:12 “Holy land”

“And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.”

Isaiah 52:1

“Jerusalem, the Holy City”

2 Chronicles 6:6

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.”

HOW do the Gentiles of the world know who the LORD is? God is sanctified, made holy in Israel, before the nations of the world’s eyes.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 tells us the **WHEN** that the LORD will be glorified in the whole earth and the Gentiles will know who the LORD is. It will be with the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant at the end of the 7-year Tribulation.

“And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.”⁴

The Integral Identity of the Dry Bones by the Abrahamic Covenant - Ezekiel chapter 37

The “dry bones” Prophecy Ezekiel 37:1-12

Who are the dry bones? The “bones” represent the nation of Israel – vs. 11 “these bones are the whole house of Israel”

Why are they dry? Ezekiel 37:3b “Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.”

Who restores these bones to life? 37:3

37:11,12 “I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Why are they restored to life?

37:13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves”

To keep God’s covenant with Abraham.

Jeremiah 31:35-37 “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of

Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith 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, saith the LORD.”

When are they restored to Life? This was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation again.

Isaiah 11:11,12 And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time to recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah **from the four corners of the earth**.

How are they restored, spiritually or physically?

Physically 37:8 “And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above:

While spiritually dead in unbelief “but there was no breath in them.”

There will be Jewish converts of the two messengers by the 144,000 Jewish witnesses. (Rev. 7; 12:11,17; 14).

All unconverted surviving Jews are saved “remnant” at the second coming of Jesus. (Zech. 12:10 - 13:9; Rom. 11:25)

National reunification

Three aspects of the Abrahamic covenant fulfilled when Israel returned

LAND

Ezekiel 37:25 “And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.”

SEED (Jewish people and Jesus)

37:26 “Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.”

BLESSING

37:27 “My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

The “dry bones” prophecy of chapter 37 is the beginning of the consummation of God’s plan (started in 948 with the re-birth of Israel) bringing the Abrahamic Covenant to fulfillment.

The “Gog / Magog” battle of chapters 38-39 is the end of God’s plan (for Israel and the nations) bringing the Abrahamic Covenant to fulfillment.”⁵

Ezekiel 37: 15-23 Two sticks unified

“This section treats the symbol of the reunion of the tribes of Israel, the explanation of the symbol, and the sanctification and blessing of the nation in the Messianic reign. . . the earlier part of the chapter . . . has already shown that God will restore and reestablish the nation in their own land. It was now to be made known that when the dispersed will be brought back into their country, they will no longer be divided and disunited as they have been since the days of Rehoboam. Ezekiel was commanded to picture this by the symbolism of the two sticks. The sticks are here equivalent to two scepters, reminiscent of those in the days of Moses (Numbers 17: 1-2 ff). ‘Judah, and... His companions’ (v. 16) showed that the southern Kingdom included, in the addition to Judah, the greater part of Benjamin and Simeon, the tribe of Levi, and godly Israelites who had come at different times from the northern Kingdom with its idolatry and false priesthood into the Kingdom of Judah, (cf. II Chronicles 11: 12 ff.; 15: 9; 30: 11, 18; 31:1).

These same scriptures show the folly of the Anglo- Israel delusion with its position of 10 lost tribes.

In connection with the other stick Joseph was mentioned. In all probability he was chosen because the House of Joseph, comprising the two powerful tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh formed the main body of the northern Kingdom. After Ezekiel had carried out his commission to join the sticks, the people eagerly questioned him as to the meaning of his actions. The use of the plural “them” in verse 19 is a construction according to the sense, for the rod representing the 10 tribes. Again, the explanation underscored the prediction that the scattered nation will be duly regathered to their land first. . . Underlying all prophecy concerning Israel is the presupposition of a united people, a healing of the breach in the Commonwealth of God's people (see Isaiah 11: 12-13; Jeremiah 3: 18; Joshua 1: 11). One God, as well as one shepherd and king, require requires a counterpart of one nation. The prophets all recognized that northern tribes as still in existence and knew of no such error as quote lost UN quote tribes (cf. Isaiah 43: 5-7), “everyone” Isaiah 49: 5-6; Jeremiah 3; 12-15).⁶

“The issue, in a word, is the question of whether Israel as a nation and as a race has a prophesied future. A literal interpretation of the Abrahamic covenant involves the permanent existence of Israel as a nation and the fulfillment of the promise that the land should be their everlasting possession.”⁶

The Historical, Literal, Grammatical interpretation leaves no other answer but, YES. The Covenant of a land, seed and blessing, was reiterated to Abraham at age 99 as an “everlasting covenant,” with the land of Canaan as an “everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:7,8,13, 19), for an eternal nation in possession of their land before the great Gog, Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38.

1 Ralph H. Alexander, “A Fresh Look at Ezekiel 38 and 39,” *Journal of The Evangelical Theological Society*, vol. 17 (Summer, 1974), p. 157.

2 *What it has cost the Church to withhold Christ from the Jews*, Rev. Charles H. Stevens, D.D., Founder of Piedmont Baptist Bible College, pamphlet, page 5

3 Expository notes by Mark Robinson, Former Executive Director of JAM (abridged)

4 Ibid.

5 *The Prophecy of Ezekiel*, Charles Lee Fineberg, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill. 1969. P 21

6 Dr. John Walvoord, Dallas Theological Seminary