

“The 1948 Restoration Of Israel Prophecy”

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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Teaching Aim: To examine the Bible’s fascinating prophesy on the 1948 restoration of Israel as a nation to the Promised Land. To understand the promises of God are steadfast and reliable no matter what we face in life. To see how four Old Testament passages taken together (See **Jer. 25:11; Dan. 9:1-4,11; Lev. 26:17-18; Ezek. 4:1-17**) line up to give us the specific year Israel would return to the land. To realize what a special time we live in and how close we may be to the return of Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: God promises the restoration of Israel as a nation (Ezek. 36:18-38)

1. According to **Ezekiel 36:18 & 19**, why was the Jewish nation destroyed and the people scattered throughout the world? Is God in the habit of allowing nations to live in blatant sin forever or will He call those nations into account? Why is the United States knocking in a precarious situation today? (See **Matt. 7:21-23**)

2. According to **verses 21-23**, why did God come to Israel’s aid? What does God promise to do for Israel in **verse 24**? Why?

3. King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army laid siege to Jerusalem in 605 B.C., the city finally fell in 586 B.C. Note: The Book of Daniel begins in 605 B.C. when the teen Daniel and his three friends were taken in captivity to Babylon for 70 years. By 535 B.C., the Persians had conquered the Babylonian Empire and King Cyrus of Persia (modern Iran) allowed a small group of Hebrews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple; among them were Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest. How many years went by between the initial siege in 605 B.C. and the return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in 535 B.C.?

4. What did God promise to do for the nation of Israel in **verses 25-27**? According to these verses, who would initiate these changes and see them through? What would these changes do to the nation of Israel? How are these promises a picture of our salvation today? How many “*I will’s*” can you count in **verses 25-27**? What makes these two words so important? Who ensures God’s purpose will be done?

5. What did God promise to do for Israel in **verse 28**? Are we witnessing God's promises in **verses 29 & 30** being fulfilled in our own day? In what way is the land of Israel becoming like "*the Garden of Eden*" today (**vs. 35**)? How did Israel bring such a dry land to life?

6. As of 2022, over 9 million people live in the tiny nation of Israel. Note: The populated area is not much larger geographically than the size of the expanded San Francisco Bay Area. What metaphor did Ezekiel use in **verse 38** to describe what would take place at Jerusalem? Is this prophecy being fulfilled today in Israel?

Part II: Ezekiel's vision of "*the Valley of Dry Bones*" (Ezek. 37:1-14)

1. In **Ezekiel 37:1**, the prophet Ezekiel was caught up in the 6th of his 7 night visions. (See **Ezek. 1:1-28; 8:1-18; 9:1-11; 10:1-22; 11:1-12; 37:1-14; 40:1-43:10**) What did Ezekiel see in **verse 1**? What can we learn from this vision? Who or what do these bones represent? What can we learn about national Israel from **verse 2**? Why did this scattering and so much death come upon the Israelites? (See **Dan. 9:8b-11a**)

2. How did God challenge Ezekiel in **verse 3**? What can we learn about Ezekiel's faith from **verse 3b**? How was the faith of this prophet and priest tested in **verses 4-6**? Have you ever had your faith tested? If so, how? What was the outcome spiritually? What do you think was going on in Ezekiel's mind?

3. What strange event took place in Ezekiel's vision as he was prophesying (**vv. 7-8**)? How could **verse 8** be a picture of modern Israel today? What, if any, comparison is there between **verse 7** and **Gen. 2:7**? Is it possible there will be stages in Israel's return to the Promised Land and to the nation's spiritual restoration? (See **vv. 7-10**) If so, what order might we see?

4. After the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the dispersion of the Jews throughout the world, the nation appeared dead to many for almost 2,000 years. What does God promise to do in **verses 11 & 12**? Why (**vs. 13**)? What two promises does God make to Israel in **verse 14**? How do these promises relate to the 1948 restoration of Israel to the Promised Land? How are they yet future?

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Ezek. 37:1-14; Jer. 25:11; Dan. 9:1-4,11, Lev. 26:17-18; Ezek. 4:1-6

Only God in the Bible tells the future ahead of time with specifics:

Isaiah 46:8-10 (NIV) ~ “Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other, I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

I. Jeremiah’s prophecy concerning the captivity (Jer. 25)

Jeremiah 25:11,12 (NIV) ~ “This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon _____ years. But when the _____ are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the LORD, “and will make it desolate forever.”

II. Daniel prayer of repentance and alarming realization (Dan. 9)

A. Daniel’s prayer of repentance (See Dan. 9:1-7)

B. Daniel’s realization that Israel had not repented

Daniel 9:8-11 (NIV) ~ “...we have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your _____ and turned away, refusing to obey you. “Therefore the _____ and _____ written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.”

III. The curse of the law (Lev. 26)

A) God’s blessing for obedience/God’s cursing for disobedience

Leviticus 26:17-19 (NIV) ~ “I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you. If after all this you will not listened to me, I will punish you for your sins _____ times over. I will break down your stubborn pride...”

Leviticus 26:21 (NIV) ~ “If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions _____ times over, as your sins deserve.”

Leviticus 26:27 (NIV) ~ “If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me, then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins _____ times over.

IV. Ezekiel’s humiliating sign to Israel (Ezek. 4:1-6)

- A. The making of a miniature city layout/a model of Jerusalem.
- B. The coming siege. (605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar lays siege to Jerusalem)
- C. Punishment for the sin of Israel—_____ days representing years. (4:5)
- D. Punishment for the sin of Judah—_____ days representing years. (4:6)

V. In spite of the curse, God promises the restoration of Israel to the Promised Land.

Jeremiah 27:22 (NIV) ~ “They will be taken to Babylon and there they will remain until the day I come for them, declares the LORD. “Then I will bring them back and _____ them to this place.”

The Question is: When? (Now we find out the answer.)

Ezekiel's Prophecy—Ezekiel 4:1-6

The punishment as listed in Ezekiel 4:

390 days of years for Israel (Ezekiel 4:5)

+40 days of years for Judah (Ezekiel 4:6)

430 years of total punishment for Israel and Judah combined

The starting year of this prophecy was 605 B.C. when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege to the city of Jerusalem. This was the year he took Daniel and his three friends into captivity.

The punishment minus the 70 years of captivity mentioned in Jeremiah 25:

430 years punishment (See above)

-70 years of Babylonian captivity before it comes to an end in 535 B.C. (Jeremiah 25:11,12)

360 years of punishment left at the end of captivity

(Daniel realizes Israel still has not repented, and understands the curse of the law will take effect against them!)

The starting year of punishment with the curse was 535 B.C. when the 70 years of captivity had come to an end and the Jews still had not repented.

Now multiply the curse of the law to Israel's punishment (Leviticus 26):

360 Jewish Lunar years left at the end of the captivity when Israel had not repented (See above)

X7 the curse of the Law was applied (Leviticus 26:23,24)

2520 Jewish Lunar years of punishment left for unrepentant Israel

Now we must convert the punishment into our Gregorian Calendar to find the year signaling the end.

Turning the Jewish Lunar Calendar into "total days" so that we can convert:

2520 Lunar years of punishment left

X 360 days per year (Lunar Calendar)

907,200 total days of punishment for unrepentant Israel

Conversion from "total days" of the Lunar Calendar to our modern "Gregorian Calendar":

907,200 total days of punishment left

÷365.242199 days per year—Gregorian Calendar

2483.831283 years of punishment left on the Gregorian Calendar

(Rounded off to 2484 Gregorian Calendar years for our purpose.)

Correction for B.C. and A.D. combination of years:

2484 total years

- 535 B.C. years (from end of the Babylonian captivity to the year zero)

1949 AD for the Restoration of Israel?

Note: The time between 1BC and 1AD counts as only one year, not two – there is no year zero!

With the correction:

1949

-1 year correction

= **1948 AD** (The Bible accurately prophecies Israel would be restored as a nation at this time.)

Twentieth Century News Flash: "The new state of Israel was declared May 14, 1948!"

Miner's Corner ~ *Manna to live by!*

- One of the main reasons that Christians can trust their Bible as the Word of God is because of the fulfillment of Bible prophecies.
- In the Bible, God tells us ahead of time what will happen in the future with amazing accuracy to detail.
- The Bible specifically prophesied that Israel would return to the Promised Land in 1948.
- One of the greatest proofs for the existence of God is the continued survival of the nation of Israel.
- We live in the generation immediately following this monumental event.
- The return of the Lord Jesus for His people seems imminent and could happen at any moment.
- As Christians, we should join with the Apostle John in praying, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”