

THESE DRY BONES NOW LIVE

Ezekiel 36:16-38, 37:1-14

Ezekiel 37:1-2 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and behold there were very many in the open valley; and lo, they were very dry.

Today is September 25, 2009. I have been studying for several days in making preparations to write messages concerning the nation of Israel. On today's Fox Net News it says "New world order at G-20 summit." Yes things are changing at a rapid pace! During this UN summit, on September 23, 2009, President Obama spoke and during his speech he made prominent mention of the nation of Israel and the middle east peace process. Israel is in the news daily. There is little wonder about that. This world system is against God, therefore, this world system is against Israel as a nation and Christians as a people because both belong to God. Hear the words of Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 15:18-20 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

But God is for his people and God will win and his people will be blessed to share God's victory and live with him forever. Our text is dated 587 BC, having been written some 2,596 years ago. How wonderfully reassuring it is to sit here just at this moment and know that the words spoken at that time have now at this time been fulfilled. Let us rejoice together as we visit over this passage of Scripture.

FIRST Israel is God's nation: *Gen. 12:1-4 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. Exodus 3:6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob....* The nation of Israel originated in the mind of almighty God. Her purpose as a nation is stated at her very origin as stated in our above text. "and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Through her Jesus came into the world. *Matt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.* Through Jesus salvation is given to all who believe. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* From Genesis 12 through the rest of the Old Testament, the history of the ups and downs of Abraham's offspring is followed. Through all of Israel's history, the hand of God is with them and his hand is still with them today.

SECOND The sins of Israel led to their captivity: *Ezekiel 36:16-18 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. 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: Israel was to be a holy people living their lives in obedience unto their God. God placed them in the land of Egypt and over a period of 400 years*

nurtured them until they became a great multitude of people. After he brought them out of Egypt, he gave them his law to live by. Exodus through Deuteronomy contain these laws. In giving instruction to them through Moses God warned them of ultimate dispersion among other nations if they persisted in sin. *Deuteronomy 28:63-66* *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life.*

THIRD Israel was buried among other nations just as God stated in Deuteronomy 28 above:

God dispersed them because of their continued sins. *Ezekiel 36:19* *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.* But there is a remarkable thing about Israel. They always maintained their identity, even through hundreds of years while among many nations.

FOURTH The vision of the buried nation of Israel: *Ezekiel 37:1-2* *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo they were very dry. First, Notice “they were very dry” indicating that they had been there a very long time. In fact, it had been hundreds of years. Second, “The valley was full of them” “there were very many in the open valley” Though oppressed and suppressed the buried nation proliferated and survived. Third, Notice in *Ezekiel 37:11* *behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.* They considered themselves beyond help and they had lost hope. Simply stated, they had lost faith in their ancient God, they had forgotten his promises of his own faithfulness to them. But God's faithfulness rests in his own word, he would not fail them.*

FIFTH The restoration of Israel back into their ancient land: God had great plans for Israel, plans that began to be executed through Abraham and have spanned the ages since Abraham, plans that continue in place even now and reach into the eternal future ages. The plans of God will not be successfully hindered. *Ezekiel 37:4-6 and 11-14* *Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. -----Then he said unto me, these bones are the whole house of Israel : behold they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 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, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD. Notice carefully that the restoration of Israel is by the direct action of God. The emphasis in these passages of Scripture is placed upon Divine intervention. Notice another thing, God also places great stress upon calling Israel his people. So it was that God placed a longing in the hearts of many Jews for a return to their ancient*

land. Out of this longing the Zionist movement was born, nurtured, planned, and eventually brought to full fruition. On May 14, 1948, the nation of Israel was again established in their ancient land. Their neighboring nations were poised on their borders and immediately tried to stomp out the little new born fledgling nation, but they failed because God was on Israel's side. Several battles against Israel have since ensued but there they remain until now.

FOUR PRINCIPLES FROM THESE PASSAGES OF SCRITPURE: **One**, The word of God is true. God said and he did it. **Two**, The will of God is certain. God's word is an expression of his will. **Three**, The hand of God is powerful. What he promises, he has the power to execute. **Four**, The way of God is wise. He does things in his own way and in his own time.

AN ALARM IS NOW IN PLACE We know our time is short to accomplish the Kingdom work. Careful Bible students understand that the return of Israel to their ancient land is a sure indication that the return of Jesus Christ our Lord is very near, even at the door. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Are you ready for his return? If not, turn to him right now and ask him to save you.