

# **Ezekiel 37:1-8—The Resurrection And Reunion Of A Nation—Part 1**

## **Memory Verse**

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

## **Introduction**

This chapter can be broken up into three sections:

### **1. *The restoration or reviving of Israel as a nation* (v 1-14)**

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 NKJV)

### **2. *The end of the divided nation* (v 15-22)**

The jealousy and division between the southern kingdom of Judah (originally the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin along with some of the Levites), and the northern kingdom of Israel (the remaining ten tribes and some Levites), would be gone forever, and the nation of Israel will never be divided into two kingdoms again.

### **3. *The regathering of the nation of Israel from among the nations and the future glory of the kingdom* (v 23-28)**

In addition to people of Israel being gathered from all the nations for the second time (see Isaiah 11:11), Israel would also become a nation again, with David their prince or king, Jesus ruling over all, and His sanctuary and tabernacle among them forever.

## **Ezekiel 37:1-28 NKJV**

**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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”**

**So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”**

**<sup>4</sup> Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> 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.” ’ ’ ”**

**<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.**

**<sup>9</sup> Also He said to me, “Prophecy 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.” ’ ’ ” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.**

<sup>11</sup> 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!’ <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.’ ”

<sup>15</sup> Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>16</sup> “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.’ <sup>17</sup> Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

<sup>18</sup> “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’—<sup>19</sup> 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.” ’ <sup>20</sup> And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

<sup>21</sup> “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; <sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>28</sup> The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” ’ ”

### **Ezekiel 37:1-3 NKJV—A valley full of dry bones**

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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”

v 1 **The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord:** Here we see God giving Ezekiel an amazing vision, in a similar way to what he had experienced previously (1:1-3, 8:3, and 11:24).

v 1 **In the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones:** This is a valley full of dry human bones from many skeletons all mixed up together. In verse 11 we are told what these bones represent; “these bones are the whole house of Israel.” In the Middle Eastern culture, not to be buried meant disgrace; it was the highest insult. So here we have the nation of Israel, both with no signs of life and also completely disgraced.

v 2 **Indeed they were very dry:** These bones were not just dead, but long dead. It’s emphasizing that there was no hope for them, humanly speaking, and no signs of life.

v 3 **And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”** “One might hope that a recently dead corpse might somehow resuscitate. No one hopes that scattered, detached **bones** might **live**. Admirably, Ezekiel responded to God’s question with the only hope that could be found, saying “**O Lord God, You know.**”

- Ezekiel had no hope in the bones, but he did have hope in God.
- Ezekiel did not presume to know what God wanted to do with the bones.
- Ezekiel was confident that God *did* know.” (David Guzik)

#### **Ezekiel 37:4-6 NKJV—God speaks life to the dry bones**

**Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> 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.” ’ ’ ”**

v 4 **Prophecy to these bones:** Ezekiel had left the matter with God. He knew that he had no power to make these long dead bones live, and was wise enough to ask God what His plans for the bones were. God then tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones.

#### **Application: God’s commands are God’s promises**

Remember that *God’s commands are also God’s promises*. If He asks us to do something, then along with the command also comes the power and ability to perform the action. God will never ask us to do something that He will not also enable and equip us for: *God’s commands are also God’s promises*. Remember that we do all things by the power of the Spirit upon us.

Acts 1:8 AMP

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

---

v 5 **Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live:** Here we see God ask Ezekiel to do something that seemed foolish. How could simply speaking to dead bones cause them to come to life? *Well, it’s easy if the command comes from God.* Consider that it was God who spoke and the creation came into being.

## **Application: Ideas have consequences, the perils of false teaching**

As verse 11 says, this vision or illustration is of the whole nation of Israel. For almost two thousand years, most people thought that the nation of Israel was dead, long gone, utterly rejected by God, with no hope of restoration. Unfortunately, the church was at the centre of this false teaching. The early church father Origen (185 - 253 A.D.) saw that, indeed, it was absolutely humanly impossible for Israel to become a nation again. He therefore, either through ignoring or not understanding the clear teaching of Bible regarding the second regathering of Israel, reinterpreted or allegorised all the prophetic Scriptures (including the book of Revelation) that pertained to future Israel to mean the church—the official birth of *replacement theology*. Augustine then further developed this idea that God had permanently rejected the nation of Israel and had replaced them with the church. The Catholic church and also the reformers also believed and promoted this heretical replacement theology teaching. The result was that, through the centuries, the church was, and remains, one of the main instigators of the persecution of the Jews. It was the false teaching of the Church that justified much of the persecution against the Jews. The example of Martin Luther (1483 - 1546):

*“Luther's attitude toward Jews took different forms during his lifetime. In his earlier period, until 1537 or not much earlier, he wanted to convert Jews to Lutheranism (Protestant Christianity). In his later period when he wrote On the Jews and Their Lies, he denounced them and urged their persecution.[1]*

*In the treatise, he argues that Jewish synagogues and schools be set on fire, their prayer books destroyed, rabbis forbidden to preach, homes burned, and property and money confiscated. Luther claimed they should be shown no mercy or kindness,[2] afforded no legal protection,[3] and "these poisonous envenomed worms" should be drafted into forced labor or expelled for all time.[4] He also seems to advocate their murder, writing "[W]e are at fault in not slaying them".[5]*

*The book may have had an impact on creating later antisemitic German thought.[6] With the rise of the Nazi Party in Weimar Germany, the book became widely popular among its supporters. During World War II, copies of the book were commonly seen at Nazi rallies, and the prevailing scholarly consensus is that it may have had a significant impact on justifying the Holocaust." (Wikipedia)*

---

## **Application: God takes what is dead and breathes life**

However, in our lifetime we see the nation of Israel being birthed and her people regathered—God kept His promise. In effect, this prophecy has started to be fulfilled; the bones have been gathered, the flesh and sinews put on the bones—but God has not breathed His Spirit into them yet in the sense of spiritual regeneration. They have been physically restored as a nation, but are still spiritually dead.

In many ways this current situation of the Israelites mirrors what it's like for all people. Born with a sin nature, we are physically alive, but spiritually dead, separated from God because of sin. However, God does a miracle:

John 5:21 NKJV

For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

Romans 4:17 NLT

That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

Ephesians 2:1-7 NLT

**Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.** <sup>2</sup> You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> **that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.** (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup> **For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.** <sup>7</sup> So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

Every believer is a miracle. Every believer is a spiritual resurrection; going from death to life, from an eternity separated from God’s love in the Lake of Fire to eternity enjoying a love relationship with God.

v 5 and 7 **God’s grace ... His grace:** Also, just as God has repeatedly told the Israelites, “*I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake*” (Ezekiel 36:22 NKJV), what God does for us is also completely underserved, it’s all of **grace:** *We can’t earn it, we don’t deserve it, we are freely given it, and therefore we can’t lose it.* Surprise, surprise, an unconditional promise is by definition unconditional! It doesn’t depend on us.

So why does God do all these things for Israel and for the unsaved in general? It’s simple. It’s for His name’s sake. God is revealing Himself as: the all-knowing; all-powerful; everywhere-present; all-faithful; and all-gracious, merciful, and loving God.

v 4 **O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord:** Lastly, how does this physical and spiritual resurrection from the dead occur? By the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (see Romans 10:17), and it’s faith in God’s promises that is required for salvation.

“If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God. If we want conversions, we must put more of God’s Word into our sermons; even if we paraphrase it into our own words, it must still be his Word upon which we place our reliance, for the only power which will bless men lies in that.” (Spurgeon)

---

v 5 **Thus says the Lord God to these bones:** “**Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.** <sup>6</sup> **I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin:** This is the first phase of God’s restoration of the nation of Israel—their physical regathering and establishing of the nation. As Scripture predicted in many passages, the people of Israel are being regathered from all over the earth. Also, as Scripture predicted, the nation of Israel was born in one day, on the 14th of May, 1948.

There was no long fight, no gradual takeover of the land, just a single vote in the UN; one day there was no nation of Israel, and the next there was. Not surprisingly, God was careful to reveal beforehand even this detail of His plan concerning Israel.

Isaiah 66:7-10 NLT

“Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son. <sup>8</sup> Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? **Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment?**

But by the time Jerusalem’s birth pains begin, her children will be born.

<sup>9</sup> Would I ever bring this nation to the point of birth and then not deliver it?” asks the Lord. **“No! I would never keep this nation from being born,”** says your God.

<sup>10</sup> “Rejoice with Jerusalem! Be glad with her, all you who love her and all you who mourn for her.

Here the picture is of a pregnant woman who goes in to labour, but at the very first signs of labour, the baby is born. This picture of an instant child birth is completely unnatural—but this is the point, it’s a *miracle*. Do you remember why God tells us what it going to happen before it happens?: “Then you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV

Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’

Isaiah 46:10 NLT

Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. <sup>10</sup> Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Again, never lose sight of the fact that, just as it was a privilege to live at the time of Jesus’ first coming, so it is a privilege to live in the days leading up to His second coming. We hardly need any faith. Every day it seems another prophecy is fulfilled. However, just like those religious people of Jesus time who were blind to the prophecies, especially those in Daniel 9:24-27 that related to the timing of Jesus’ first coming, so are most religious people today. Like the Pharisees in Jesus’ day, many Christians today are caught up living for themselves, with some even saying, “I hope Jesus doesn’t come back too soon, there are things that I want to achieve in this life, like getting married. Their focus is not on Jesus or Heaven, but on themselves and finding fulfilment in the things this temporary and evil world offers.

In these chapters God is giving us a picture of just how glorious it will be when He comes back at His Second Coming, so that we should be longing for His soon return—“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:13-14). We should be longing to be with Him in Heaven, saved from the time of the Tribulation (see Revelation 3:10), and then returning to the earth to reign with Him for 1,000 years.

v 6 **And put breath in you; and you shall live:** “The life would be marked by **breath** living once again in these bones. This has a double sense, because the ancient Hebrew words for **breath** and *spirit* are the same. This was a granting of God’s Spirit (as previously promised in Ezekiel 36:27) *and* the restoration of life-giving breath.” (David Guzik)

**Ezekiel 37:7-8 NKJV—The scattered bones come together and become people**  
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. <sup>8</sup> 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.**

v 7 **So I prophesied as I was commanded:** This would have taken a lot of faith, but by now Ezekiel had learned that God loves doing what is humanly impossible. Have we learned to obey God, by faith expecting Him to do more than what we ask or think?

Ephesians 3:20-21 NJKV

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

v 7 **There was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; the bones came together, bone to bone:** As you would expect, the dry bones would make a rattling sound as God caused the bones to move so that each skeleton was correctly assembled.

v 8 **The sinews and flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over:** Notice that this picture of the resurrection of the nation of Israel happens in stages. First, the bones stir and then assemble, then the sinews and flesh appear on the bones, and finally the skin covers the tissues covering the bones.

Remember that this vision does *not* apply to the resurrection of individuals, only the national restoration of Israel, which we can see with our own eyes that it is obviously happening in stages. 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 tells us that the resurrection of believers will be instantaneous.

### **In depth: God's timeline of events concerning the nation of Israel in the last days**

v 8 **But there was no breath in them:** Despite all this activity, and the appearance of life, there is still no life. The regathering has happened, the nation has been formed, yet God's Spirit is not yet in them—**there was no breath in them.** We will see in verse 9 that God asks Ezekiel to prophesy again, this time regarding the breath or spirit. Let's have a look at several of the Scriptures that explain God's timeline or plan for the nation of Israel in the end times.

#### **1. Jesus will not come back until the nation of Israel has come to understand that Jesus is their Saviour—they will accept Him the second time!**

The spiritual regeneration of the nation of Israel will not happen until the people of Israel say to Jesus when He comes back at His Second Coming, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*" (see Matthew 23:37-39 and Psalm 118). This important messianic phrase represents the acceptance of Jesus as their Messiah. Just like the nation of Israel first rejected Joseph and Moses before accepting deliverance from them, they also rejected Jesus the first time but will accept Him as their Saviour the second time (see Acts 7:9-36).

Luke 13:34-35 NKJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, **you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**"

**2. Ezekiel 36:24-29 states clearly that, in regards to the restoration of the nation of Israel, God will complete it in three distinct stages:**

— **First, He will regather them to their own land:** “*For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.*” (v 24)

— **Secondly, God will spiritually restore them to relationship with Himself:** “*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean... <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you...*” (v 25-27)

— **Thirdly, God will allow them to dwell safely and prosper in the land, enjoying their new relationship with Himself:** “*Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.*” (v 28)

Notice the preposition “*then*” in verses 25 and 28. These verses are clearly describing a sequence of events.

**3. Romans 11:7-8 and 25-27 tell us that “blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the gentiles has come in”, which will be when Jesus comes back to deliver His people.**

The “*blindness in part*” means a partial blindness, not a total blindness. The majority of the nation of Israel were blinded, but there was always a remnant who believed (see Romans 11:5), and Paul himself was a part of that small number or remnant of Jews who believed.

Romans 11:7-8 NLT

So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favour of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—**but the hearts of the rest were hardened [blinded]**. <sup>8</sup> As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. **To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.**”

How long will this spiritual blindness last? Until “the fulness of the gentiles has come in”, and, “all Israel” is saved, which will be when the Deliver (Jesus) comes from Jerusalem [Zion] at His Second Coming. Romans 11:25-32 explains this very clearly. We’ll break it down verse by verse (explanation in italics).

**Romans 11:25-32 AMP**

**v 25** Lest you be self-opinionated (wise in your own conceits), I do not want you to miss this hidden truth and **mystery**, brethren: a **hardening** (insensibility, blindness) has [**temporarily**] befallen a part of Israel [to last] **until the full number of the ingathering of the Gentiles [fulness of the Gentiles] has come in...**

*(A **mystery** in the New Testament is a truth that was not revealed in the Old Testament, but is revealed in the New Testament. The mystery that we must not miss is this; because Israel as a nation rejected Jesus as their Messiah, they have been temporarily sidelined while God instead uses the church as His method of reaching the world with His truth and love.*

*This is only possible, because, since the Jews **hardened** their own hearts and rejected Jesus as their Messiah when He came the first time, the majority of their hearts have been **hardened or blinded** by God ever since.*

However, this hardening or blindness imposed on the majority of the nation of Israel is only temporary, lasting only until the last gentile to be saved puts their faith in Christ during the Tribulation, which will be right before Jesus returns at His Second Coming.

Remember that throughout the 7 year Tribulation period, a multitude of gentiles (non-Jewish people) that no-one can count will be saved during those seven terrible years of judgement—mostly because of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists that God raises up at the start of the seven year Tribulation (see Revelation 7). Note: during the Tribulation God again uses Israel as His witness or light to the world; the church has been removed (see Daniel 9:24-27, the Tribulation is Daniel's 70th week).

Once the last gentile person to be saved is saved, Jesus will come back to the earth at His Second Coming, and God will remove the spiritual blindness from the nation of Israel—only then will they be able to see clearly that Jesus is their Messiah, and they will readily accept Him, saying, “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”.)

**v 26** And so **all Israel will be saved**. As it is written, The **Deliverer will come** from Zion, He will **banish ungodliness** from Jacob. [Isaiah 59:20, 21]

*(All Israel will be saved: This national acceptance of Jesus as their Saviour and God is in contrast to the remnant or very small percentage of Jews who come to Christ currently. When will this happen? When the Deliverer comes. Jesus will return to Jerusalem, touching down on the Mount of Olives (see Zechariah 14:4-5), and will deliver His people the Jews. Because their eyes will have been opened at this time, they will accept Him and repent of their sins, thus Jesus will banish ungodliness from the nation.*

Keep in mind that “**All Israel will be saved**” doesn’t mean that all the nation will be saved. Actually, when you compare it to other scriptures, we find that only one third of the nation will come to accept Christ, the third that choose to believe in Him. We’ll look at two Scriptures that make this very clear.

The first Scripture is Romans 9:6-8: “**For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,** <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” <sup>8</sup> **That is, those [Jews] who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.**”

Put simply, just because someone is a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it doesn’t automatically make them a spiritual descendent of Abraham, which was the common belief of the Jews in Paul’s day. Ishmael was a descendant of Abraham, but he was not saved because he did not put his faith in God. Only those Jews who put their faith in God, like Isaac and Abraham did, will be included in the national revival. Those whose hearts are hard like Ishmael’s won’t make it, as described in Zechariah.

The Second Scripture is Zechariah 13:8-9 NLT

“Two-thirds of the people in the land will be cut off and die,” says the Lord. “**But one-third will be left in the land.** <sup>9</sup> **I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘These are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”**

*Here God gives us the proportion of believing Jews to unbelieving Jews during the seven year Tribulation. God will use the Tribulation to refine or separate the true or believing Jews, who make up one third of the nation, from the unbelieving Jews who make up the remaining two thirds of the nation. The unbelieving two thirds of the nation are killed, while the remaining one third of the nation of Israel will survive, eventually putting their faith in Christ as their Saviour.)*

**v 27** And this will be My covenant (My agreement) with them when I shall take away their sins. [Isaiah 27:9; Jeremiah. 31:33; Ezekiel 36:25-28]

*(As seen in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 and other places, the New Covenant has everything to do with Israel and God restoring them both physically and spiritually. Here is yet another reminder that God bringing His people into the land is a part of His New Covenant, which is based on unconditional promises.)*

**v 28** From the point of view of the Gospel (good news), they [the Jews, at present] are enemies [of God], which is for your advantage and benefit. **But from the point of view of God's choice (of election, of divine selection), they are still the beloved (dear to Him) for the sake of their forefathers.**

*(Seen from a human perspective, the **Jews are enemies of God.** Seen from God's perspective, they are still **beloved** of God. Why? "**For the sake of their forefathers**", meaning that God intends to keep the unconditional promises concerning the nation of Israel that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)*

**v 29** For God's **gifts** and His **call** are **irrevocable**. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His **grace** or to whom He sends His call.]

*(Just like the genuine believer can't lose their salvation, so the Jewish nation can never lose their standing as God's chosen nation—it's all by **grace**. Praise God that He doesn't **revoke** His promises—our God is a faithful God. Any promise or **gift** we receive as a result of God's **grace** is ours to keep. Why? Because we didn't earn it, we didn't deserve it, it was unconditionally given to us, and therefore we can't lose it.)*

**v 30** Just as you were once disobedient and rebellious toward God but now have **obtained [His] mercy, through their disobedience,**

*(Take this to heart: God didn't turn to the gentiles to build His church because they were better than Israel. On the contrary, we were just as disobedient and rebellious as Israel. So why did God chose the gentiles to build His church? Only because God is rich in mercy and grace; we **obtained [His] mercy.***

**Through their [Israel's] disobedience:** *If Israel did receive Jesus as their Saviour the first time, then there wouldn't be any church. It's only because Israel, as a nation, rejected Jesus at His first coming, that the church was born.)*

**v 31** So they also now are being disobedient [when you are receiving mercy], **that they in turn may one day, through the mercy you are enjoying, also receive mercy [that they may share the mercy which has been shown to you—through you as messengers of the Gospel to them].**

*(Just like God has shown mercy to us disobedient gentiles through the church, so He will **one day** show **mercy** again to Israel, saving them and using them again despite their disobedience. In the meantime, we are to love the Jews and share the Gospel with them, not persecute them.)*

v **32** For God has consigned (penned up) all men to disobedience, only that He may have mercy on them all [alike].

*(Us gentiles were disobedient, but God showed us mercy. The Jews remain disobedient, but Jesus promises to also show them mercy when He returns. All in all, God is fair, having mercy on all people, Jew and gentile alike. Praise God for His mercy.)*

**4. Jeremiah 30:5-9 calls the Tribulation “Jacob’s trouble”, and that God will save them from this time of severe trial so that they will serve Jesus as God, and David as a lesser king.**

Remember that the two main purposes of the Tribulation are to: Judge the unbelieving world; and discipline and refine Israel. The goal of refining Israel through the fire of the Tribulation was made clear in Zechariah (see above). Here we see God promising to keep or protect believing Israel during this time of trial, so that during the Millennium, they will serve both Jesus as Lord and David as king over them.

Jeremiah 30:5-9 NKJV

“For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. <sup>6</sup> Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? <sup>7</sup> Alas! For **that day [the seven year tribulation]** is great, so that none is like it; and **it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.**

<sup>8</sup> ‘For **it shall come to pass in that day,**’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them.

<sup>9</sup> **But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.**

This once again sets the timing of Israel’s spiritual deliverance as the end of the seven year Tribulation.

## **Summary and conclusion**

— The currently observed physical regathering of the Jews into the land of Israel and the establishing of the nation of Israel is only the first stage.

— Next, the nation of Israel will go through the Tribulation, and God will use this time to refine them, separating the one third of the Jews who will eventually believe from the two thirds of the Jews who won’t believe—this unbelieving two thirds of Israel will die during the seven years of tribulation—God was not understating how bad it would be in Jeremiah 30:5-9!

— At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus comes back to the earth (with the church), and delivers the remaining one third people Israel, who also call out to Him, “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*” It’s at this point that Israel begins to enjoy both the full physical and spiritual blessings of the New Covenant.

— Jesus will rule as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (see Revelation 19:16) over all the earth for 1,000 years, and David will rule as a king or prince over Israel. During this time, the land of Israel will become like the garden of Eden and will enjoy unparalleled prosperity and security.