

Ezekiel 37:15-28—The Resurrection And Reunion Of A Nation—Part 3

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. ²⁷ 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

Last week we looked at God's breath/spirit/wind and how we are lifeless without it, both in a physical sense and in a spiritual sense; without the Holy Spirit in us we are spiritually dead. We also saw how prophecy is God giving us promises concerning the future that give us hope for the present. For Israel, the promises of the second regathering and spiritual regeneration have carried them through almost 2,000 years of exile from their land.

Chapter outline: Ezekiel chapter 37 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.

This week we resume at verse 15, looking at how God restores unity in the nation.

Ezekiel 37:15-28 NKJV

¹⁵ Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ¹⁶ "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.' ¹⁷ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸ "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?'—¹⁹ 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." ' ²⁰ And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

²¹ “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; ²² 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.

²³ 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.

²⁴ “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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ²⁸ The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” ’ ’

The end of the divided nation (37:15–22)

Background

Saul was Israel’s first king, who was anointed by Samuel, a prophet and Israel’s last judge. Then came king David, and then his son Solomon, each ruling for about 40 years. Therefore, for the first 120 years the nation the nation had a kind they were united. However, Solomon in his old age rebelled against God, married many wives, and worshipped their gods. As a result, God judged David’s royal family line by dividing the nation into two kingdoms, effectively reducing their authority and sphere of influence.

1 Kings 11:1-13 NKJV

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—² from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. ⁸ And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹ So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded. ¹¹ Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and

have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. ¹² Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

While Solomon was still alive, a prophecy was given to Jeroboam, one of Solomon’s servants, that he would be king over the 10 northern tribes once Solomon had died, while Solomon’s son Rehoboam would only reign over one tribe (see 1 Kings 11:26-40). Importantly, 1 Kings 11:39 says, “And I will afflict the descendants of David [the royal or kingly line] because of this, but not forever.” This judgement was against the line of kings descended from David, but affected the whole nation: This shows the importance of good leadership.

1 Kings 12:1-24 tells the story of how the nation became divided north and south, with Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, ending up ruling over the southern kingdom of Judah, and Jeroboam ruling over the other 10 northern tribes. Now, in Ezekiel’s day, the time has come when God will remove this judgement or consequence that resulted from king Solomon’s disobedience.

At this stage, you might be wondering why only 11 tribes are mentioned. Originally, there were exactly twelve tribes, corresponding to Jacob’s twelve sons. Here are some facts from the Bible that will bring some clarity:

— The land given to the tribe of Benjamin was on the northern boarder of the tribe of Judah’s land and contained the capital city, Jerusalem. Also, they were a very small tribe. These are probably the reasons that God left them associated with Judah.

— There are actually 13 tribes. Back in Genesis, as Jacob was dying, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, Jacob took Joseph’s two oldest sons and claimed them as his own, effectively splitting the descendants of his son Joseph into two tribes—Ephraim and Manasseh—making a total of 13 tribes.

Genesis 48:3-5 NLT

Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. ⁴ He said to me, ‘I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’

⁵ “Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are.

— The tribe of Levi was chosen by God to be the priestly tribe, and so didn’t receive an inheritance (allocation of land) in the promised land like the other 12 tribes did. They were instead given specific cities to live in in each of the regions or land allocations given to the other 12 tribes, the idea being that they would be responsible to teach the people the ways of God, and in return, they would be supported by the rest of the nation through the tithes and offerings. This explains why there were only 12 land allotments for the 13 tribes.

So now we can see that the 10 northern tribes, plus the tribe of Levi, plus the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, make up the 13 tribes of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:15-17 NKJV—The two sticks become one in Ezekiel's hand

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

v 17 **They will become one in your hand:** This was a miraculous event that would have grabbed the attention of the Israelites. Ezekiel had two sticks, one inscribed with Judah and the other with Ephraim. Ezekiel was told to put them together and they would become one stick in his hand.

v 16 **Take a stick for yourself and write on it ... for Judah ... Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph ... Ephraim’:** Judah and Ephraim were used as representative tribes for the two kingdoms; they were by far the most numerous and also had the most political influence in terms of leadership. For about three hundred and fifty years there had been bitter jealousy, hatred, and war between the two kingdoms; the southern kingdom identified with Judah (usually called Judah), and the northern kingdom identified with Joseph or Ephraim (usually called Israel).

Application: Unity is a gift already given by God, but it must be maintained

v 17 **Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand:** Remember that, ever since the end of Solomon's reign over Israel, up until this point in time some 350 years later, the nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms. Now this division, this disunity, will finish, forever. From this point on, and forevermore, there would be only one kingdom under one leader. When the children of Israel returned from Babylon, they included people from all 13 tribes, all ruled by one leader, and thus this prophecy was fulfilled at the time of the return from the first (Babylonian) exile. Today we still see Israel as one kingdom or nation, just like God said they would be.

For us in the church, we have also been given this gift of unity as one body in Christ, but, just like the Israelites, we can lose it when we allow sin to take over. Unrepentant sin, especially pride, causes division.

Ephesians 4:1-3 NLT

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

It's important that we understand what true unity is, as there are many counterfeits:

— Unity is not “uniformity”, where everybody is alike in what they do and how they do it. God has never said that all churches or believers should be clones of each other. God intentionally gives each member different gifts and responsibilities.

Romans 12:3-8 NKJV

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

— Unity is given, but must be maintained; we are told to “Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit.” It is not something that we have to work hard to achieve as it is a gift already given to us by God, but it is something that is difficult to maintain. Jesus prayed specifically that we, the church, would experience this oneness or unity.

John 17:20-23 NLT

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one—as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me.

²² “I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as We are one. ²³ I am in them and You are in Me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me.”

Remember that each Christian family is basically it's own little church, with the husband being the head or pastor of the home. Just as sin causes a break in fellowship between people and God in the church, so it is with the family. Basically, if spouses are out of sorts with each other, chances are they are also out of fellowship with God—our prayers are hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwelt with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

— Unity is “in the Spirit” or “of the Spirit”. The spiritual unity that God has already given us is only possible because of the power of the Holy Spirit working through us and producing fruit (love etc, see Galatians 5:22-23) in us. True unity is impossible through human effort alone, as it requires; agape love, genuine forgiveness, and esteeming others as being better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3-4). Indeed, we can only experience true unity as we yield to the Spirit and allow God to love others through us.

Galatians 2:20 NKJV

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Grace vs law: Grace is me living by faith, trusting completely in God's resources, strength, power, ability, wisdom, love, and mercy. Living by law is me trusting in myself, and thinking of myself as being self-sufficient or self-reliant, and therefore trusting in my own very limited resources, strength, power, ability, wisdom, love, and mercy.

Living by grace makes us gracious, loving, and forgiving; living by law make us legalistic, insensitive, harsh, and judgemental. A law based church will have everyone conforming to a common standard of outward righteousness and behaviour (uniformity)—but there will be little love—only expectations, condemnation, and competition to see who is the greatest.

A grace based church (true unity) sees others' various ministries, personalities, gifts, and talents to be gifts given by God for the benefit of the whole body, and so will be willing to self-sacrificially work together with the other members to achieve the common goal of bringing glory to God. They are also willing to forgive others when they do mess up (we all will at some stage), and therefore build and maintain strong and genuine friendships.

In summary, the unity of the Spirit is best described as people loving each other with the love of Christ, and so overcoming all other potential separations; age, sex, personality, gifts, talents, types of ministry, occupation, handicaps, skin tone, ethnicity, and so forth.

Poison alert: The so-called 10 lost tribes and replacement theology

v 16 **For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel:** By this time in Ezekiel's day the norther kingdom had be in captivity for about 150 years; they had fallen to the Assyrians. But look at how God describes them—“**all the house of Israel**”. God still considered the 10 northern tribes as a part of the nation of Israel, even though some of them had been scattered among the nations for about 150 years. Why is this important? Because some false teachers have used this myth of the ten lost tribes to try to show that the unconditional covenant promises given to Israel no longer apply to Israel. First, let's look at what the false teaching is, then we will look at Biblical proof as to why it is false. Here's a quote from gotquestions.org that explains this error:

British Israelism, also known as Anglo-Israelism, is the belief that the "lost ten tribes" of Israel migrated to Europe and then to England and became the primary ancestors of the British people and, thereby, the United States. British Israelism was made popular by the Worldwide Church of God and Herbert Armstrong, but other groups have held the doctrine as well.

The primary goal behind British Israelism is to claim that England and the United States have inherited the covenant promises God made to Israel. While England and the United States have been blessed by God in many ways, it is not because God's promises to Israel have been transferred to those two nations. God's covenants with Israel always involved the specific land of Israel. Abraham's descendants would inherit the land. The blessings of God to Israel were always in connection with the specific land that was promised. These promises, therefore, cannot apply to England or the United States, as those two nations do not possess the promised land.

Now let's look at what the Bible says about the 10 northern tribes, some people of whom were taken captive by the Assyrians; did they every go “missing”, or were they ever “lost”?, and also, did God abandon them? As we read these precious verses, see how patient and kind God is to His people Israel; the same is true for us who make up the church. These verses also emphasise the father-heart of God towards us.

Jeremiah 3:11-25 NLT

Then the Lord said to me, “Even faithless Israel [northern kingdom] is less guilty than treacherous Judah [southern kingdom]! ¹² Therefore, go and give this message to Israel [northern kingdom]. This is what the Lord says:

“O Israel [northern kingdom], My faithless people, come home to Me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever. ¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery against Him by worshiping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to listen to My voice. I, the Lord, have spoken!

¹⁴ **“Return home, you wayward children,”** says the Lord, “for I am your master. **I will bring you back to the land of Israel—one from this town and two from that family — from wherever you are scattered.** ¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.

¹⁶ **“And when your land is once more filled with people,”** says the Lord, “you will no longer wish for ‘the good old days’ when you possessed the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant. You will not miss those days or even remember them, and there will be no need to rebuild the Ark. ¹⁷ In that day Jerusalem will be known as ‘The Throne of the Lord.’ All nations will come there to honour the Lord. They will no longer stubbornly follow their own evil desires. ¹⁸ **In those days the people of Judah and Israel will return together from exile in the north. They will return to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance forever.**

¹⁹ “I thought to Myself, ‘I would love to treat you as My own children!’ I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land—the finest possession in the world. I looked forward to your calling Me ‘Father,’ and I wanted you never to turn from Me. ²⁰ But you have been unfaithful to Me, you people of Israel! You have been like a faithless wife who leaves her husband. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

²¹ Voices are heard high on the windswept mountains, the weeping and pleading of Israel’s people. For they have chosen crooked paths and have forgotten the Lord their God.

²² **“My wayward children,” says the Lord, “come back to Me, and I will heal your wayward hearts.” “Yes, we’re coming,” the people reply, “for You are the Lord our God.** ²³ Our worship of idols on the hills and our religious orgies on the mountains are a delusion. Only in the Lord our God will Israel ever find salvation. ²⁴ From childhood we have watched as everything our ancestors worked for—their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters— was squandered on a delusion [the cost of sin].

²⁵ *Let us now lie down in shame and cover ourselves with dishonour, for we and our ancestors have sinned against the Lord our God. From our childhood to this day we have never obeyed Him [This is genuine repentance, where we see our sin as bad because of how it hurts God].”*

Notice that God promises to bring the people from the ten northern tribes, who were taken captive by the Assyrians, back to Israel along with the people taken from Judah in the Babylonian exile. Assyria and Babylon are geographically close and no doubt the people taken captive in the Babylonian invasion would have met up with those who were taken captive in the earlier Assyrian invasion; they too would have heard and been encouraged by the prophecy and preaching of Ezekiel and Jeremiah.

Here is further proof that the 10 northern tribes were alive and well, both in the land of Israel, and in the nations around:

— During the first three years after the nation split into two kingdoms, north and south, most of the Levites and many believing Jews from the 10 northern tribes immigrated to the southern kingdom of Judah (see 2 Chronicles 11:11-17). This means all tribes were represented in the southern kingdom of Judah.

— Later on, when Asa sought the Lord, long before the Assyrian invasion, again, many believing Jews from the 10 northern tribes immigrated from Israel (norther kingdom) to Judah (southern kingdom).

2 Chronicles 15:9 NLT

Then Asa called together all the people of Judah and Benjamin, along with the people of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them. For many from Israel had moved to Judah during Asa's reign when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

— At the time of the Assyrian exile, not all captives were taken away. One of the evidences of this is the passover during king Josiah's reign (90 years after the Assyrian defeat of the northern kingdom) .

2 Chronicles 35:18 NKJV

There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, **all Judah (southern kingdom) and Israel (northern kingdom) who were present**, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

—In the New Testament, Luke 2:26 tells us that Anna the prophetess is from the tribe of Asher, one of the 10 norther tribes.

Ezekiel 37:18-22 NKJV—The people ask the meaning of the two sticks

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

v 18 **Will you not show us what you mean by these?** Most likely the people of the southern kingdom of Judah thought that God had finished with those of the northern kingdom who had been taken into exile—after all, they had been enemies for a long time. God is saying that He will bring at least some of those who were taken captive in the Assyrian captivity, 150 years prior, back to the land of Israel, along with those from the Babylonian captivity.

Ezekiel 37:21-23 NKJV—God promise to unify, gather, and spiritually restore Israel

“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; ²² 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. ²³ 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.

v 21 **Gather them from every side and bring them into their own land:** Remember that this has a dual fulfillment. The first regathering was only from Babylon. The second and current regathering we are observing today involves Jews from all over the world making their way home to Israel.

v 22 **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:** Again, the promise of a united nation under a single monarchy.

v 22 **In the land, on the mountains of Israel:** God couldn't make it any more clear as to the literal geographical location that He was referring to: God will bring them back to the promised land, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

v 23 **They shall not defile themselves with their idols... and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God:** These promises remind us of the New Covenant. Again, this shows that true unity starts in the heart, and is only possible if God changes our hearts and we decide to love God and put Him first.

Ezekiel 37:24-28 NKJV—David will be king over the restored Israel

“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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ²⁸ The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” ’ ’

v 24, 26 **David My servant shall be king over them ... My servant David shall be their prince forever:** Here, like in many other places, God says that David (obviously in his resurrection body), will be king or prince over Israel. This was promised previously in:

Ezekiel 34:23-31 NLT

And I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among My people [Israel]. I, the Lord, have spoken!

²⁵ “I will make a covenant of peace with My people and drive away the dangerous animals from the land. Then they will be able to camp safely in the wildest places and sleep in the woods without fear. ²⁶ I will bless my people and their homes around my holy hill. And in the proper season I will send the showers they need. There will be showers of blessing. ²⁷ The orchards and fields of my people will yield bumper crops, and everyone will live in safety. When I have broken their chains of slavery and rescued them from those who enslaved them, then they will know that I am the Lord. ²⁸ They will no longer be prey for other nations, and wild animals will no longer devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will frighten them.

²⁹ “And I will make their land famous for its crops, so my people will never again suffer from famines or the insults of foreign nations. ³⁰ In this way, they will know that I, the Lord their God, am with them. And they will know that they, the people of Israel, are my people, says the Sovereign Lord. ³¹ You are my flock, the sheep of my pasture. You are my people, and I am your God. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

Obviously, the time spoken of here is the Millennial or 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth. Jesus will be the King of Kings, ruling over all the earth with a rod of iron (having complete authority, see Psalm 2), but David will be a prince among My people”, meaning a leader or king over the people of Israel. Other verses that confirm this are:

Jeremiah 30:9 NKJV

But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

Hosea 3:5 NKJV

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

v 25 **Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt:** Notice yet again how God emphasises the literal return to the literal land of Israel. It just doesn't make sense to allegorise or spiritualise these promises given to Israel.

v 26 **I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them:** “God here seems to describe the new covenant as both a **covenant of peace** (as in Ezekiel 34:25 and Isaiah 54:10) and an **everlasting covenant** (as in Ezekiel 16:60; Isaiah 55:3, and Hebrews 13:20). It is the covenant that brings true *shalom*, and the covenant that never ends.” (David Guzik)

v 26 **I will establish them and multiply them:** Once again, the New Covenant promises include physical blessings for Israel. Remember that the New Covenant brings together to a close, or the complete fulfilment of, all the other covenants given in Scripture—the Abrahamic Covenant (land, nation, blessing to all the nations), the Mosaic Covenant (law, sacrifices, choice of blessing or curse), and the Davidic Covenant (everlasting dynasty and the promised Messiah)

v 27-28 **The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore:** “Then all nations would see that it was the Lord who made Israel holy. She would be set apart from all nations as God's special possession. No other nation would have the Lord dwelling in its sanctuary uniquely in its midst as would Israel.” (Alexander)

v 27-28 **I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore:** What we will learn in the coming chapters is that there will be a new temple, the Millennial temple, where there will be levitical priests serving and sacrifices offered. The whole world will have to come and worship at various times each year. Remember that the temple represents the presence of God, so this is a very precious promise to the nation of Israel. The purpose of the Millennial temple will be to remind people of the Sacrifice Jesus made when He came the first time. *As they offer the sacrifices, there will be Jesus with His scars, and there will be no doubt as to how a person is saved from their sins.* Chapters 40 through 48 describe this new temple, and are the climax of the book of Ezekiel.

Conclusion and summary

May we remember one reason why Jesus died (see John 17:20-23). “Whether it's the Children of Israel or the saints in the church today, the Lord wants His people to be united. ‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity’ (Psalm 133:1). Paul appealed to the believers in Corinth to cultivate unity in the church (1 Corinthians 1:10), and he exhorted the Ephesian believers to ‘make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace’ (Ephesians 4:3, NIV).” (Wiersbe)