

Ezekiel 37:9-14—The Resurrection And Reunion Of A Nation—Part 2

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 did a survey of several key Scriptures to better understand the timing of Israel's physical and spiritual deliverance, before, during, and after the seven year Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ. It can be summarised as follows:

— 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 of God's plan for the nation.

— Next, the nation of Israel will go through the Tribulation, and God will use this time to refine them, separating and protecting the one third of the Jews who will eventually believe from the two thirds of the Jews who will die during the seven year Tribulation. God was not understating how bad the Tribulation would be when He called it *Jacob's trouble* in Jeremiah 30:5-9!

— Then, at the end of the seven year Tribulation, Jesus comes for the second time to the earth (with the church), and delivers the remaining one third of the nation of Israel, who will also call out to Him when they see 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.

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.

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

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

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

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

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

¹¹ 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!’ ¹² Therefore prophecy 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.’ ”

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.” ’ ’

God makes it clear in verse 11 that the vision of the valley of dry bones represents the whole nation of Israel. We left off in verse 8 with the very dry bones having come together to form skeletons, sinews and flesh formed on the skeletons, and then skin covered the flesh. However, even though these bodies were fully formed, they were still dead. Verse 8 finishes with **“but there was no breath in them.”** In these next verses, we will see God finish what promised that He would do in verse 6; God will cause the reformed bodies to come to *life* when the *breath* or *Spirit* came into them.

Ezekiel 37:9-10 NKJV—The second prophecy - prophecy to the breath to bring life
Also He said to me, **“Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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.” ’ ’** ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Application: Being alive versus looking alive—real versus fake

What we will see is that only having knowledge of Word of God is not enough. We also need the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Prayer and the reading of the Word go hand in hand. We worship God in **spirit and in truth** (see John 4:23).

“To worship **in spirit** means you are concerned with spiritual realities, not so much with places or outward sacrifices, cleansings, and trappings.

To worship **in truth** means you worship according to the whole counsel of God’s word, especially in light of the New Testament revelation.” (David Guzik)

v 9 **Prophecy to the breath ... breathe on these slain, that they may live:** Without the breath/spirit of life, these bodies were still just corpses. Ezekiel is told to *pray* that the breath or Spirit would breathe on them and they would *come alive*.

v 9 **Come from the four winds, O breath:** “In this vision, Ezekiel had already proclaimed God’s word to the dead and dry bones, and had seen a remarkable work done. Yet it was not enough; there also needed to be a work *by the Holy Spirit*. Ezekiel was commended to pray—to boldly **prophecy to the Spirit**—calling on the Spirit to come upon those upon whom the word of God has worked.” (David Guzik)

“First, the prophet prophesies to the bones—here is preaching; and next, he prophesies to the four winds—here is praying. The preaching has its share in the work, but it is the praying which achieves the result, for after he had prophesied to the four winds, and not before, the bones began to live.” (Spurgeon)

The way God restores Israel is very similar to the two-step method God used to create man in the garden of Eden. He first formed man out of the dust of the ground, and then breathed the breath/spirit of life into him so he would become a *living* being.

Genesis 2:7 NKJV

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath [spirit] of life; and man became a living being.

Man becoming a living being was true in two ways at the creation of man. Firstly, God imparted physical life—Adam’s heart would have begun to beat, and he would have started breathing. Secondly, God’s Spirit would have connected with Adam’s human spirit, creating an intimate, loving, and perfect connection between man and God. What happened when man sinned was that God’s Spirit was no longer connected to man’s spirit. Our spirit became like the TV when the power cord is unplugged—black and lifeless—dead, because our sin has separated us from God (see Isaiah 59:2). However our physical life remains, albeit temporarily because of the curse.

In the same way, the nation of Israel today look like they are alive, with the full skeletons being covered with flesh and skin—the nation has formed; but in fact they are still spiritually dead—they are lifeless. Again, this is the current state of the nation of Israel today, they look like they are alive, but they are still spiritually dead, separated from God. Of course we know that God will complete the work that He has started, He will spiritually restore them according to Ezekiel 36:25-27.

For us as believers, we can be in the same predicament as Israel on a practical or day to day basis. We can be going through the motions, looking like we are alive, but the reality is that, if we are not praying and not living in dependance on God, then we are out of fellowship with God, because we are depending trusting in ourselves. Remember the difference between *grace* and *law (works)*—we receive grace and experience life only when we are humbly depending on God, seeking His favour and help—we experience death when we are living by our own strength, living by law, the “I can do it” attitude.

Romans 8:5-6 NLT

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature [the “I can do it by myself” attitude] think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit [the “only God can do it” attitude] think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to **death**. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to **life and peace**.

v 10 **So I prophesied as He commanded me:** Here Ezekiel again demonstrates his radial faith in God by obediently to prophesying or praying something that was utterly humanly impossible.

v 10 **Breath came into them:** Now the work is complete. The reconstructed bodies have now received God’s Spirit in them and are truly alive.

“There is no hope for humanity in man. But these dry bones can live. By the Word, and the Spirit of God, men can be reborn; and at last healed of their separations, and united under one King.” (Morgan)

“Decayed Churches can most certainly be revived by the preaching of the Word, accompanied by the coming of the heavenly ‘breath’ from the four winds. O Lord, send us such revivals now, for many of thy Churches need them.” (Spurgeon)

“With all word and no spirit, we can be an army of the dead—assembled, solid, but without the true breath of life.” (David Guzik)

Application: We are soldiers in God’s army

v 10 **An exceedingly great army:** Here we see the purpose or mission of this nation that God has brought back to life—to become an **army**. An **army** is made up of soldiers. Think about what soldiers live for; their mission is to fight. Also, their own lives and the lives of their fellow soldiers depends on their obedience, diligence, preparation, equipping, and training. They are not spectators to the fight, and they don’t live for themselves. Instead, they are focused on fighting on behalf of their Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ, carefully following every command they are given.

“So the Hebrew, or Army of strong, courageous, and well-ordered soldiers. The phrase in the Hebrew is very full; a power, or great host, very, very great. Thus they rise, that the prophet and we might know how safe they would be in themselves, and how terrible to their enemies.” (Poole)

Do I think of myself as a soldier, someone who’s sole purpose in life is to fight for my King, the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I fully trained, fully equipped, fully surrendered to His will, working in co-operation with my fellow soldiers, and therefore a real threat to the enemy? Or am I sitting on the sidelines, watching the battle, living to bring pleasure to myself, and therefore an easy target for the enemy (satan). The New Testament believer is described as a soldier, enlisted into God’s army.

Philippians 2:25a NKJV

Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and **fellow soldier**.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 NLT

Endure suffering along with me, as a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. ⁴ **Soldiers** don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 NKJV—*The meaning of the vision, and God gives the nation hope*
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!’
¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.’”

v 11 **These bones are the whole house of Israel:** It’s important to realise here that God has the whole nation in mind; both the northern kingdom of Israel, which went into captivity about 150 years prior when defeated by the Assyrians, and also the southern kingdom of Judah, who went into captivity when defeated by the Babylonians. This is a lead-in to the next section we will read, which shows that God intends to unite the nation.

Application: Where to look when it seems that there is no hope

v 11 **Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!** Both nations (north and south), had reason to say this—there seemed to be no hope against a world power like Babylon. Only God could make a difference. Only in God is there hope. The same is true with us. We may be in circumstances where it seems that there is no way out, humanly speaking; but these are the situations that God loves, because He gets to work and show us great and mighty things that we didn't know, and wouldn't know, if not for God allowing the hard times. Truly, God desires for our faith to grow.

v 11 **Our hope is lost:** “They were the words of despondency, born of the realisation of the desolation produced by the Divine Reprobation. It was an accurate description.” (Morgan)

v 12 **Behold, O My people:** These are the words the people needed to hear. Though the Lord disciplines us, and His disciplines are never pleasant or easy, they are actually an evidence of God's Fatherhood over us, because God only disciplines those that He loves (see Hebrews 12:3-11). The next time you are going through trials, remember these precious promises and assurances in Ephesians (below), and that whatever God is allowing you to go through is always for your good (also see Romans 8:28-29).

Ephesians 1:3-8 NLT

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are **united with Christ**.⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.⁵ God decided in advance to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. **This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.**⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who **belong to his dear Son**.⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Keeping in mind the above Scripture, remembering three simple facts will bring us comfort:

- firstly, God is sovereign and is in control
- secondly, God loves us and so will only do what is best for us; and therefore
- thirdly, it follows that everything that happens to us has been allowed by God and is therefore for our benefit or good (excluding the practical consequences of our own sin, which are our own choices).

v 12 **I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel:** Here is a similar message to the dry bones illustration, with something long dead being brought back to life by the power of God. The nation seemed like it was dead and buried, but God would “resurrect” the nation and bring them back into the land.

Jeremiah chapter 33 is a great example of how God desires to give hope through prophecy. It's worth reading the whole chapter as it shows that God is working through both Jeremiah and Ezekiel to give hope to the nation, but first we'll just read the first three verses to get the context and really appreciate the message of hope given to the people of Israel in this chapter.

Jeremiah 33:1-3 NKJV

Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ²“Thus says the Lord who made it, the Lord who formed it to establish it (the Lord is His name): ³‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty [inaccessible, unassailable, incomprehensible] things, which you do not know.’

The context: the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians is coming to an end, the city is about to fall, and Jeremiah has been locked up in prison by the ungodly king of Judah who has rejected his messages from God—could Jeremiah’s situation get any worse? Jeremiah needs hope, so God gives Jeremiah a whole chapter of hope as He outlines the glorious future of the nation of Israel, just like He gives the New Testament believer hope with promises like those found in Ephesians chapter 1.

Firstly, what does God encourage Jeremiah to do while in this dark situation? Pray—**“call to me”**. What does God promise to do? **“I will answer you, and show you great and mighty [inaccessible, unassailable, incomprehensible] things, which you do not know.”** God wants us to ask and expect much more than we think is possible. The Hebrew word translated **mighty** means:

- inaccessible: the things we need may be inaccessible to us, but are easy for God
- unassailable: not liable to doubt, attack, or question. God’s promises are sure. We just need to ask in faith so we can receive.
- incomprehensible: God’s promises to answer our prayers in such a mighty and powerful way that it will be incomprehensible to us—we will not fully understand just how God did it, nor just how awesome it is.

The New Testament equivalent to these verses in Jeremiah 33 is Ephesians 3:20. Let us dare to ask for the impossible and see God answer our prayers:

Ephesians 3:20 AMP

Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, **is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]**

Again, as we read Jeremiah chapter 33, notice the great lengths God goes to to encourage Jeremiah that all hope is not lost for the nation of Israel by giving Jeremiah and the nation unconditional promises—**“I will”**. Also consider that, if promises of physical and spiritual restoration given in this chapter were actually just allegory (it means something else aside from its plain and simple literal meaning), then how cruel would God have been to Jeremiah who would have understood these things to be literal promises and blessings. Also notice that in verse 24 God deals with the detractors who dare to doubt His intention to fulfil His promises made to the nation of Israel.

Jeremiah 33:1-26 NLT

While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the Lord gave him this second message: ²“This is what the Lord says—the Lord who made the earth, who formed and established it, whose name is the Lord: ³ Ask Me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. ⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: You have torn down the houses of this city and even the king’s palace to get materials to strengthen the walls against the siege ramps and swords of the enemy. ⁵ You expect to fight the Babylonians, but the men of this city are already as good as dead, for I have determined to destroy them in my terrible anger. I have abandoned them because of all their wickedness.

(notice that God tells them not to put any hope in their own strength, resources, or strategies)

⁶ “Nevertheless, the time will come when I **will** heal Jerusalem’s wounds and give it prosperity and true peace. ⁷ I **will** restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel and rebuild their towns. ⁸ I **will** cleanse them of their sins against me and forgive all their sins of rebellion. ⁹ Then this city will bring Me joy, glory, and honour before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see all the good I do for my people, and they will tremble with awe at the peace and prosperity I **provide for them**.

¹⁰ “This is what the Lord says: You have said, ‘This is a desolate land where people and animals have all disappeared.’ Yet in the empty streets of Jerusalem and Judah’s other towns, there will be heard once more ¹¹ the sounds of joy and laughter. The joyful voices of bridegrooms and brides will be heard again, along with the joyous songs of people bringing thanksgiving offerings to the Lord. They will sing, **‘Give thanks to the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, for the Lord is good. His faithful love endures forever!’**

For I **will** restore the prosperity of this land to what it was in the past, says the Lord.

¹² “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: This land—though it is now desolate and has no people and animals—will once more have pastures where shepherds can lead their flocks. ¹³ Once again shepherds will count their flocks in the towns of the hill country, the foothills of Judah, the Negev, the land of Benjamin, the vicinity of Jerusalem, and all the towns of Judah. I, the Lord, have spoken!

¹⁴ **“The day will come, says the Lord, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them.**

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time I **will** raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. ¹⁶ In that day Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this will be its name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’

¹⁷ For this is what the Lord says: David will have a descendant sitting on the throne of Israel forever. ¹⁸ And there will always be Levitical priests to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings and sacrifices to me.”

¹⁹ Then this message came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²⁰ “This is what the Lord says: If you can break my covenant with the day and the night so that one does not follow the other, ²¹ only then will my covenant with my servant David be broken. Only then will he no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne. The same is true for my covenant with the Levitical priests who minister before me. ²² And as the stars of the sky cannot be counted and the sand on the seashore cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of my servant David and the Levites who minister before me.”

²³ **The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, ²⁴ “Have you noticed what people are saying?—‘The Lord chose Judah and Israel and then abandoned them!’ They are sneering and saying that Israel is not worthy to be counted as a nation.**

²⁵ **But this is what the Lord says: I would no more reject my people than I would change my laws that govern night and day, earth and sky. ²⁶ I will never abandon the descendants of Jacob or David, my servant, or change the plan that David’s descendants will rule the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. *Instead, I will restore them to their land and have mercy on them.*”**

Now we will look at the source of our joy and confidence; the faithfulness of God to keep His promises.

Application: The faithfulness of God to keep His promises

v 12 and 14 **Bring you into the land of Israel ... and I will place you into your own land:** God obviously knew the hard-heartedness of believers in the last days and their stubborn refusal to believe His written word, just like it was in Jeremiah’s day (see Jeremiah 33:24), so here He says again; the national revival of Israel under the New Covenant, as promised many times in others places (e.g. Ezekiel 36:24 and 36:28), will include their restoration to the land of Israel.

“The meaning of our text, as opened up by the context, is most evidently, if words mean anything, first, that there shall be a political restoration of the Jews to their own land and to their own nationality; and then, secondly, there is in the text, and in the context, a most plain declaration, that there shall be a spiritual restoration, a conversion in fact, of the tribes of Israel.” (Spurgeon in 1884)

Understand that in Spurgeon’s day, Israel was yet to be regathered and the land itself was still a barren wasteland—the promised restoration of the land had not yet begun. However, as Spurgeon said, “...*if words mean anything...*”, then there will be a physical restoration of Israel, followed by a spiritual restoration. How is it that people today, who are actually witnessing the physical restoration/greening of the land of Israel, the gathering of the people of Israel, and the political restoration of the nation, still doubt the plain meaning of the text?

Allegorising Scripture, especially prophecy, is the same as taking away from Scripture. This is a dangerous game to play. The Scriptures, especially prophecy, were written to give us hope, as we have just read about in Jeremiah 33 and are reading here in Ezekiel 37. Allegorising prophecy robs Israel of their hope of their physical and spiritual regeneration, and it robs the Christian of the blessed hope of the rapture, when Christ will rescue us from this sin cursed world, the Tribulation to come, and take us to be with Himself forever. Remember the warning that God gives us concerning adding to or subtracting from His Word.

Revelation 22:18-21 NKJV

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

v 13-14 **Then you shall know that I am the Lord ... Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it:** Once again we see that God is acting for the honour and glory of His great name. When all these promises are completely fulfilled, there will be nothing to say but, “Only God could do this, all glory to God for keeping His promises.”

v 14 **I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live:** “*The breath in the revived bones was more than the breath of human life; it was the **Spirit** of the living God. This is another way of expressing the great promise [of spiritual restoration] found in the previous chapter (Ezekiel 36:27).*

Undeniably, Ezekiel 37:1–14 is about God’s promised restoration of Israel. It is a restoration so wide and so deep that any fair examination of Israel’s history must confess that it has not yet happened. This means that it is yet to be fulfilled, and will be fulfilled as part of God’s plan for Israel in the very last days.” (David Guzik)

Application: The principles of revival (adapted from David Guzik’s commentary)

This chapter teaches many principles of how God works in revival, and how God’s servants should think and act relevant to such a mighty reviving work. If we put the modern servant of God in Ezekiel’s place, we can make the following observations:

- God’s servant must know that the bones are dead and dry—people are dead in the sense that they are born separated from God.
- God’s servant must walk among the dead—we are called to reach out to and love the unloveable (those who are sick with sin—see Mark 2:15-17).

- God's servant must speak forth God's word—the strength of man is useless (Ps 108:12).
- God's servant must have what seems a foolish confidence in God's Word.
- God's servant must understand that the Spirit can only work when the Word is taught.
- God's servant must recognise that the work of the Holy Spirit is essential.
- God's servant must boldly pray for the Spirit to move.
- God's servant must speak in the power of faith.
- God's servant must notice every evidence of the Spirit's work.
- God's servant must look for God's people to be revived into an army of service.
- God's servant must not say that hope is lost.

Summary and Conclusion—God is faithful to keep His promises

There is nothing that can bring us greater joy than to read and understand the promises of our faithful God toward unfaithful Israel and to see them fulfilled. If there's one thing we can get from today, it's that God is a faithful and gracious God who simply just loves to bless those who don't deserve to be blessed—that's just who God is. **If I recognise that I am unworthy to receive anything from the Lord, then I make myself eligible to receive everything from the Lord.** Studying God's relationship with Israel confirms this: God only blesses and dwells with the humble person who has a contrite and broken heart (see Psalm 34:18, 51:17, Isaiah 57:15 and 66:2). The Bible declares that God is faithful:

Know, recognise, and understand therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, **the faithful [reliable, permanent, proven, enduring, trustworthy] God**, Who keeps covenant and steadfast love and mercy with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations. (Deuteronomy 7:9 AMP)

God is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be depended on); by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9 AMP)

Yet the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen [you] and set you on a firm foundation and guard you from the evil [one]. (2 Thessalonians 3:3 AMP)

If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (**faithful to His Word and His righteous character**), for He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:13 AMP)

If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, **He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises)** and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action]. (1 John 1:9 AMP)

Why is it so important to be sure that God will keep His promises? Because faith, hope, and love all grow together or die together. You can't love God if you don't trust Him. Also, greater trust in God results in a greater hope that we will receive God's promises, which results in greater joy in our lives. *Our joy is a measure of our faith and hope in God, both in that He is able (God is all-powerful and in control), and He is willing (that He loves us).*

And so faith, hope, love abide [faith—conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope—joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love—true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13 AMP)