

Ezekiel 37 – 15 November 2015

Intro – Started in chapter 33 with the final conquest of Judah by Babylon and how God begins to show them the way out.

We've seen –

This future restoration of Israel is the perfect picture of God's eternal plan to restore a sinner to Himself.

Chapter 33 – Ezekiel appointed to warn the people of God's workings. Telling them the God has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live”.

There's always a herald (ie John the Baptist)

Chapter 34 – God finally stripping away the bad shepherds and prophesy's of Himself coming to Shepherd them.

We can always look straight towards God for help

“I will lift up my eyes, where does my help come from, my help comes from the Lord.”

Chapter 35 – The prophesied defeat of their closest familiar foe, their brother Esau.

This pictures that flesh and it wants to kills us as it opposes God.

Chapter 36 – The restoration of the Promised land becoming a fruitful and resourceful land again at the hand of God.

This pictures God restoring the natural blessings, abilities and the fruit of the Spirit to a believer thru sanctification.

Today God shows us one more part of Israel's final sanctification

Chapter 37 – Restoration of all of Israel (Judah & Israel) with a new spirit

Next week chapter 38-39 shows us...

One last attempted attack on God's people by Satan's forces...and their final defeat.

Let's look at a little of chapter 36 again

Vs 7-11 – Fruitful land

- a. Started around 1880 w/ Ben Gurion

Vs 25 – Sprinkled clean from idols

- b. Most Jews are non-religious but believe in God.
- c. Only 20% don't believe in God

Vs 26 – New Heart and new Spirit

- a. Hasn't happened yet

Vs 27 – God's Spirit within you

- a. The mystery of how God will fulfill this is already revealed thru the church.

Chapter 37 – Restoration of all of Israel (Judah & Israel) with a new spirit. *This is a picture of our security on Christ than none are lost.*

Chapter 37:1-2

1. This is the Valley of Dry Bones Prophecy.

2. Very dry – long after a battle, desolation is all that has remained.
3. They currently sit in Babylon...desolate.

Chapter 37:3

1. We often answer God's questions with our own limitations.
 - a. Prayer
 - i. Can you not pray 1 hour?
 - ii. But God my work schedule....
 - iii. God's says, no, no, no ask Me for help.
 - b. Living a trusting life
 - i. Having begun in the Spirit, will you be made complete in the flesh?
 - ii. But God, I have to hammer my kids with religious rules to keep them in line.....
 - iii. God says, no, no, no ask them to trust Me.
2. Zeke wisely answers, "God, You know what You're doing."

- a. We need to agree that he does know what he's doing.
- b. We need to come along for the journey.

Chapter 37:4-8

- 1. Just as God breathed into Adam the Breathe of life.
- 2. The power of life/death is with God only.
- 3. Two Witnesses in Revelation 11

Chapter 37:9-14

- 1. Zeke was to give Israel this great hope.
- 2. They will be restored as a nation; ALL of them!
- 3. When is this restoration...after Babylon, no, after the Roman exile.
 - a. Need to go thru time with chapter 33-39
 - b. When was Edom destroyed? (chap 35)
 - c. When was the land brought back from desolation? (chap 36)

- d. This is the restoration after the Roman exile of 70AD which began in earnest in 1948.
 - i. To be completed when they're fully regathered and God puts His Spirit within them.

Chapter 37:15-28

- 1. Quiz the audience on
 - a. What it means.
 - i. Divided Israel will be reunited.
 - ii. This regathering is meant to never divide them again.
 - b. How do you know that?
 - i. Plain reading
 - ii. Context of Ezekiel
 - iii. Do the sticks represent anything?
 - iv. Do the sticks matter or is it what they represent that matters?

2. Imagery is meant to have us look at what it represents, not the imagery itself.
 - a. Parable of the Sower and the Seed
 - b. The books or sticks are what matters but what they represent is what matters.
3. Talk about Mormons as time allows.
4. So all Israel is being re-gathered even still today.
 - a. We looked at stats last week.

Conclusion:

Chapters 33-48 are going chronologically thru Israel's restoration starting around the year 1900.

If you read history and the Bible side by side, you cannot mistake this.

If you haven't read history (know reality) then you can be easily deceived.

When the plain sense of the text makes common-sense, then seek no other sense!!