

The Bridge of Wrath and Mercy

Ezekiel 36:16-21 & 37:1-14 NKJV

Main Idea: *As Romans 9 establishes God total sovereignty over His creation, Ezekiel shows us God's perfect justice, and His glory and His love in breathing life into death.*

A Bridge Between Romans 9 and Romans 10

Introduction: Who was Ezekiel? What is a Prophet?

- What did conquest/exile look like?

Is this fair, considering God's covenant with Israel?

- What was going on in Israel around 600B.C.? **v.36:16-21**

Israel possessed extraordinary privilege

God's wrath is always perfectly just

God's Glory: The Foundation Of Salvation - v. 36:22-38

After describing Israel's guilt, God makes an astonishing declaration:

The restoration of Israel is rooted in God's commitment to His own Glory

Many commentators identify this as one of the clearest statements in Scripture concerning God's ultimate purpose

Israel deserves judgment

- Yet.... God gives mercy
 - The deeper their awareness of sin becomes, the brighter God's Grace appears
 - **“The real test of being in God's presence is that you either forget about yourself altogether or see yourself as a small, dirty object”.** - CS Lewis

The story ends with God breathing life into a valley of dead bones

The Valley Of Dry Bones: A Picture Of Total Inability - v. 37:1-3

This passage is a vivid picture of man's spiritual condition apart from Grace

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The necessity of Sovereign Grace is rooted in the reality of spiritual death

God's Ordained Means: The Preaching Of His Word - Ezekiel 37:4-8

God commands Ezekiel: **"Prophesy over these bones."**

As Ezekiel proclaims God's Word, the bones begin to move

This provides an important balance when discussing Sovereignty

The preacher cannot create life

God's Sovereignty does not eliminate evangelism

God's Spirit: The Giver Of Life - Ezekiel 37:9-10

- Define life

Only the Holy Spirit can awaken spiritually dead sinners

God's Interpretation: Hope For The Hopeless - Ezekiel 37:11-14

One of the most important principles in Bible study is allowing Scripture to interpret itself

The people themselves are saying: "Our bones are dried up."

These statements reveal complete hopelessness

From a human perspective, God's promises seem impossible

Throughout Scripture, God consistently brings His people to places where human strength is exhausted... so that His Divine Power may be displayed

God specializes in bringing life where there is death

So What? What are you trusting? (man's responsibility or God Sovereignty)

- **We should be on our knees thanking God for His unfairness!**
- **God is still in the business of taking what is dead, and breathing it to life!**