

Lessons from Ezekiel's Prophecy – Chapters 36 & 37

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A message exploring the lessons from Ezekiel's Prophetic word in Chapters 36 & 37

These Chapters speak prophetically of The Father's purposes for the Jewish People & Israel

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Introduction

- Chapters 36 and 37 follow on from significant prophetic portions of Ezekiel
 - In Chapter 33 The LORD tells Ezekiel he is appointed as a Watchman to warn Israel to turn from her sin

*"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. **Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?**'"* **Ezekiel 33: 11**

- This is followed by a statement of the fairness of God's judgement, which Israel rejects as 'not fair'; and this is followed by the report of Jerusalem's fall to Nebuchadnezzar and Judah's ruin
- In Chapter 34 the Lord (Yehovah) tells Ezekiel to prophesy against Israel's irresponsible shepherds and the result of their ungodly leadership being the scattering of the Jewish people
- In the second part of this Chapter 34 the Lord declares Himself to be the True Shepherd of His people Israel and declares that He will restore them to their land

And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. **Ezekiel 34: 13**

- Chapter 35 records the Lord's judgement on Edom as Ezekiel is told to set his face against Mount Seir (a biblical reference to the land of Edom) – Mount Jebel Nebi Harun, near Petra, is probably the mountain called Mount Seir
- Chapters 36 and 37 then are prophecies about the double restoration of Israel
 - Restoration of the Jewish people to their land
 - Restoration of the Jewish people into faith and relationship with the Lord

- Remember – the Hebraic understanding of Prophecy – it is not simply ‘prediction and fulfilment’ – Prophecy is Pattern
- What was true in the days of Edom, we see again today in these end times

Chapter 36, Verses 1 – 15: The LORD Makes an Oath

- Thus Says The LORD – An Oath of Restoration of the Jewish People the Land
 - If the Lord God says it – does He mean it? **Yes He Does!**
- A Prophecy to the Mountains of Israel (*verses 1 – 5*)
 - The Lord addresses the Land...the Mountains of Israel (*verse 1*)
 - The Mountains are addressed in *verses 1, 4, 6 and 8*
 - An area today often called ‘the West Bank’
 - The mountains of Israel are Judea and Samaria



- **Israel's enemies claim the mountains as theirs (verse 2)**
 - Does this ring any bells? Be Scriptural...believe God's Word
- **Israel has been made desolate (verse 3)**
 - Swallowed up on every side
 - Possessed by the nations – the land and diaspora of the Jewish people
 - The Jewish people are spoken about by all peoples... and slandered
- **The LORD addresses His word to the land (verse 4)**
 - The Land has become desolate, forsaken, plundered and a mockery
- **The LORD speaks in 'burning jealousy' – he is zealous for the land (verse 5)**
- **A Prophecy of Restoration to the Land (verses 6 – 12)**
 - **The LORD speaks to the Land (verse 6)**
 - To the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys
 - He speak in jealousy and fury
 - Because the land has borne the shame of the nations (ridicule and slander)
 - **The LORD makes an Oath – a Solemn Statement of Truth & Intent (verses 7 - 12)**
 - As you read these words have in mind the Biblical (Hebraic) model of prophecy
 - In Hellenistic (Greek) thinking – prophecy is prediction and fulfilment
 - In Hebraic thinking – prophecy is pattern
 - **The nations around Israel will bear their own shame (verse 7)**
 - This applies in our day not simply to surrounding nations – but to all who slander and speak ill of the land of Israel (watch out Britain!)
 - **The LORD swears this Oath to the Mountains of Israel (verse 8)**
 - The land will yield fruit to 'My people Israel'
 - They are about to come – they will make *Aliyah* (which means to go up) and return to the land
 - This return began in earnest in the late 18th century
 - The return accelerated after the World War 1 (the Balfour declaration and the League of Nations Mandate given to Britain to make a homeland in Israel for the Jewish People (Britain failed to comply)
 - It accelerated further after World War 2 and the foundation of the State of Israel... and continues to this day
 - **The LORD swears of His favour to the land (verse 9)**
 - Evident today in the prosperity of Israeli agriculture
 - **The LORD will multiply the 'house of Israel' upon the land (verse 10)**
 - All the house of Israel – return from all the diaspora – all of it!
 - Cities will be inhabited and rebuilt – evident today!
 - **The LORD will make the land inhabited and it will prosper (verse 11a)**
 - As in former times – e.g. the days of the patriarchs and days of David
 - Both man and beast – bearing future generations
 - Better than in the beginnings – more bountiful
 - **The LORD's Purpose is Revealed (verse 11b)**
 - That they shall know that I am the Lord" - He is speaking to the Land... but also speaking of the House of Israel and the Nations
 - The Purpose of Physical Restoration to the land is for Spiritual Restoration! Physical Restoration precedes Spiritual Restoration
 - This speaks of a pre-Tribulation return to the land – i.e. today
 - **The LORD swears that the Land will be Israel's Inheritance (verse 12)**

- **The Restored Land will Bless Israel** (*verses 13 – 15*)
 - **The LORD speaks to the Land again** (*verses 13-14*)
 - It was a land which, instead of supporting its nations or tribes that inhabited it, *bereaved* them, *overthrew* them, and *caused them to fall*
 - This character of the land had become known among the neighbours and they taunted the people
 - **The Lord Promises a Land that blesses its people** (*verse 15*)
 - God now promises a blessed future for the land
 - Nations shall not taunt or shame it anymore
 - God will take away the reproach of his people by taking away that which was the occasion of it, the harshness of the land

Chapter 36, Verses 16 – 23: The LORD’s Concern for His Holy Name

- **The LORD Reveals to Ezekiel the Impact of Israel’s Sin** (*verses 16-20*)
 - **Israel’s sinful actions defiled the land – He likens such a defilement to a menstrual condition** (*verse 17*)
 - **We often speak of Israel as ‘the Holy Land’**
 - It is so because it is the land the Lord gave to Abraham (*Genesis 12: 6-8; 13: 14-18; 15: 7, 18-21; 17: 8*), and to his son Isaac (*Genesis 26: 3*) and to his son Jacob (*Genesis 35: 9-12*)
 - It is so because the LORD dwells among His people in the land

Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.' "

Numbers 35: 34

- **It is the land the LORD gave to Abraham and his descendants** (*Genesis 13: 14-17*)
- **Therefore the LORD poured out His fury upon His Chosen People** (*verse 18*)
 - Because of blood which they shed on the land (sinful actions)
 - Because of their idols (false gods)
- **The Lord Scattered Israel among the Nations** (*verse 19*)
 - Firstly Assyria conquered Israel (722-721BC) then the Babylonians conquered Judah (605-586BC) – and the Jewish people were scattered
 - It was the LORD’s judgement
- **The LORD’s Name was Profaned by the Scattering of the Jewish People** (*verse 20*)
 - Because the Jewish People were the LORD’s people
 - Because they were not in ‘His land’ – the land He gave to His people
- **The LORD speaks to Israel – He has concern for His Holy Name** (*verses 21-23*)
 - **His Holy Name was Profaned by the Dispersion** (*verse 21*)
 - The LORD’s promise of the Jewish people being His Chosen People and His giving to them of the land of Israel made the LORD’s name seem worth nothing
 - Pity (Hebrew: *châmal*) meaning commiseration or have compassion
 - **Not for your sake O House of Israel** (*verse 22*)
 - The Holy Nature of God’s Name is His motivation
 - This prophetic word is addressed to the House of Israel

- **The LORD will Sanctify His Great Name**

- Sanctify (Hebrew: *qâdash*) meaning to be or make clean
- Because His Name had been profaned amongst the heathen (by the dispersion) – the LORD is determined that both Israel and the heathen Nations shall know ‘that I Am the LORD’
- Honour for God’s Holy Name is the primary reason for Israel’s restoration to the land – it is the Lord’s doing for the honour of His great name
- Hallowed in you Hebrew: *qâdash*) – the spiritual restoration which God will subsequently bring about in the Jewish people will be seen by the nations
- The LORD’s purpose is that both Israel and the Nations will know ‘that I am the LORD’

Chapter 36, Verses 24 –32: The Sanctification of Return & Renewal

- **Gathered from the Nations in their Own Land** (*verse 24*)

- **‘I Will’ – It is the LORD’s Doing**

- Gathered from the nations and out of all countries – the Lord is still speaking to the House of Israel
- It is a worldwide and huge return to the land of Israel
- The Hebrew word for this return is ‘*aliyah*’, which means to go up or, as in this instance, to return to the land of Israel

- **‘Bring you into your own land’**

- It is still Israel’s land even though they were dispersed among the nations
- This gives the lie to the Palestinian narrative about the West Bank and Israel
- I’m not being political here – just biblical – it is God’s Word
- The LORD gave the land to Abraham and his descendants (*see Genesis 12: 7; 13: 14-15*)

- **God’s Land Covenant to Israel is an Unconditional Covenant**

- A Covenant with Abraham ‘To you and your descendants’ – this is a covenant repeated to Isaac and Jacob ... and to the Jewish people (descendants)
- ‘Forever’ – the Land was still Israel’s even when they were dispersed

- **Israel’s Spiritual Renewal** (*verses 25-27*)

- **‘I Will’ – It is the LORD’s doing**

- Four Times in these three verses
- It is not Israel’s doing – anymore than our salvation was our doing

- **The LORD will make them clean – sprinkling with clean water**

- Cleansed on the outside – Ephraim & Judah reunited as one nation
- Cleansed on the inside – from all filthiness (sin) and all idols (false worship of other gods, or no gods)
- This is an allusion to the Mosaic rites of purification (*Numbers 19: 17-19*)
- This is just like Yeshua has done for His body, the church – people joined in unity, cleansed from sin and worshipping the true God

- **A New Heart and a New Spirit within**

- A stony heart (resistant to the Lord) replaced by a heart of flesh (a living heart)
- A new heart signifies being ‘born again’

- The Lord puts 'My Spirit' within Israel – that is the Holy Spirit
- The need for a new birth, by the Lord's initiative, is the same for Israel as it is for the gentiles
- **A New Life**
 - By the power and work of His Spirit within
 - 'Walk in My Statutes' – causing Israel to walk rightly – walking in the Spirit
 - 'Keep My Judgements' – a 'New Covenant' character within their lives

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah 31: 33-34

- **NOTICE – Renewal in Heart follows Return to the Land**
 - **Aliyah (Return to the Land) is part of God's Redemptive Plan**
 - Physical Return precedes Spiritual Restoration
 - That is not to say that some Jewish people will not come to the Lord whilst in the nations – Bezal'el is proof that they can and do
 - But the spiritual restoration of all Israel requires a return to the land in numbers that far exceed what we have seen so far – and more than the return from Egypt or from Babylon

“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers”

Jeremiah 16: 14-15

- This return from the nations will be at the Lord's instigation – at first using fishermen, but later hunters

“Behold, I will send for many fishermen,” says the Lord, “and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.”

Jeremiah 16: 16

- In these days we have moved into a time of the hunters – rising anti-Semitism in people and governments is making life in the diaspora more difficult for Jewish communities
 - For instance, rising anti-Semitism and attacks on Jewish communities in France has led to a large rise in Jewish people retuning to Israel
- **Israel (both Land and People) will be Restored (verses 28-31)**
 - **Restored to the state they were intended to have**
 - Dwelling in the Land – physical restoration
 - His People and the Lord their God – then spiritual restoration follows... this is speaking of a time before the Lord's return

- **Deliverance – Free from uncleanness**
- **The Land Restored**
 - Fruitfulness – grain and fruit of the trees and crops of the field
 - No famine (and no reproach from the nations)
- **‘Not For Your Sake’ says the LORD (verse 32)**
 - **Restating what the Lord said earlier (verse 22)**
 - What the LORD does is not for Israel’s sake – though they benefit from the Lord’s sanctifying work
 - Israel’s restoration is for God’s glory and reputation – in Israel and among the nations

‘Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”’
Psalm 115: 1-2

- **Remembrance of what they were**
 - Israel is told by the Lord to be ashamed and confounded – alike to blushing at the remembrance of their past
 - Israel will have Sorrow – loathing for what they were and what they did

Chapter 36, Verses 33 –38: Restoration of Land and People

- **God’s Enabling (verses 33-35)**
 - **Cleansing from iniquity, by the LORD, will enable Israel’s Land to be Restored**
 - Dwelling in the Land with Ruins Rebuilt and Land Tilled and no longer Desolate
 - The Nations will Say...what was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden
 - Ruined Cities Rebuilt and Fortified and Inhabited
 - **We see clear evidence of this today**
 - There will be much more when the Lord brings all His People home
- **God’s Name Sanctified (verse 36)**
 - **The Nations will see the Restoration and Know it was the LORD**
 - They will know that the Lord has rebuilt what was ruined and planted what was desolate
 - **“I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it”**
 - Another statement of the LORD’s sovereign purpose
- **Israel will Have a New Heart for the LORD (verses 37-38)**
 - **The LORD will cause and allow Israel to seek Him**
 - No longer will Israel be a stench in God’s nostrils
 - Israel is encouraged to pray for the return & renewal (‘Inquire of Me’)
 - **The LORD will increase Israel’s population**
 - Like multitudes gathered on the Feast days
 - **Israel will know that ‘I am the LORD’**
 - The Lord’s Purpose fulfilled – Hallowed In His People!

Chapter 36: 'I Will'

- 'I Will' Occurs many times in Chapter 36 – 19 times in 38 verses
- In 2 verses, the Mountains of Israel are called to 'Hear the word of the LORD'
- In verse 7, the LORD raises His hand in an Oath – and the rest of the chapter is in the form of an oath
- Twice the LORD makes clear that He acts not for Israel's sake but for His Holy Name's sake (verses 22 and 32)
- The LORD's Purpose throughout is that both Israel and the Nations will know 'That I am the LORD'

Chapter 36: Physical Return and Spiritual Restoration

- It is important to remember that in Hebraic understanding...Prophecy is Pattern
 - This is in contrast to the Hellenistic (Greek) understanding that Prophecy is Prediction and Fulfilment
- In Chapter 36 we see several different aspects, and thus timings, of both Physical Return and Spiritual Restoration – so let us look at these in the light of history
- **Returns & Restoration: 1 After Cyrus the Great's Decree**
 - Ezekiel wrote his prophecy whilst he was exiled in Babylon, during the 22 years from 593 BC to 571 BC
 - There was a return to the land after the decree of the Persian Emperor Cyrus the Great issued a decree in 539 BC – see *2 Chronicles 36: 22-23* and *Ezra 1: 1-4*
 - Not all Jewish exiles returned – many had been widely dispersed by the Assyrians in the 8th century BC – and not all returned from Babylon
 - Whilst this return meant some cities were rebuilt it did not lead to great prosperity nor to a spiritual restoration nationally – but the Old Testament came together
 - It is interesting (at least to me!) to note that in the Old Testament in Hebraic in order (Torah [*The Law*], Naviim [*The Prophets*], Kethubim [*The Writings*]) – the last book is 2 Chronicles and the last verse is Chapter 36, Verse 23 which ends with the words "and let him go up!", in Hebrew 'âlâh which anglicised is the word 'aliyah' which means 'to go up', commonly understood to mean 'return to the land'!
- **Returns & Restoration: 2 After Dispersion by the Roman Empire**
 - There were wars between the Jews and Romans from early in the first century and during the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Romans destroyed the Temple and plundered its artifacts, including the menorah, and the city was razed and many Jews were killed or fled
 - After the Bar Kokhba revolt of 132 AD – 136 AD the Romans brutally crushed the revolt, most of the Jewish population of central Judaea was essentially wiped out – either killed, sold into slavery, or forced to flee
 - The Jewish population was reduced to barely 50 villages after the Muslim conquest of the Levant
 - Not until the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1917 was there any significant return of the Jewish people to their land – and no significant spiritual restoration

- **Returns & Restoration: 3 The British Mandate for Palestine**

- The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British Government – in a letter dated 2 November 1917 from Arthur Balfour, the British foreign secretary, to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland
- It expressed the British intention to recreate a land for the Jewish people: “His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object”
- This statement formed the basis of the League of Nations ‘Mandate for Palestine’ – the mandate was assigned to Britain by the San Remo conference in April 1920
- Between 1920 and 15th May 1948, when Mandate ended and the State of Israel was proclaimed – the British singularly failed to achieve the objective of the mandate, even limiting numbers of Jewish returnees
- The Jewish population of Israel in 1948 was around 630,000 – but there was no significant spiritual restoration

- **Returns & Restoration: 4 The State of Israel**

- Since the establishment of the State of Israel the Jewish population has risen significantly to be around 7.2 million
- There remain around 8.6 million Jews in the diaspora, of whom 6.3 million live in the USA (and about 310,000 in the UK)
- In 2025 there are around 300 Messianic fellowships in Israel
- ‘Israel Today’ has presented the high-level data that there are 280 confirmed fellowships in the country – and of the 273 fellowship the authors managed to reach, there were 15,323 people who worshiped there, including 8,125 adults over the age of 18 who believe in Yeshua – a spiritual restoration is beginning

- **Returns & Restoration: In Ezekiel Chapter 36**

- Plunder and Mockery (*verse 4*) can be seen throughout Israel’s history – and is still prevalent today
- The Lord’s people are Returning (*verse 8*) to the land – but more have yet to come
- The Jewish population has increased and cities are inhabited and ruins have been rebuilt (*verse 10*)
- Knowing the Lord (*verse 11*) – there are many yet to believe in Yeshua
- The taunts of the nations and reproach of peoples (*verse 15*) are still much in evidence – this part of Ezekiel’s prophecy will really on be fulfilled at the restoration of the Jewish people when the Lord comes again
- The land defiled, blood shed on the land and idols defiling it (*verse 18*) – this is still in evidence today in Israel (and the diaspora) – many Jews are either liberal or Ultra-Orthodox
- The Lord’s name profaned by the diaspora itself (*verse 20*) – clearly still true today
- The Lord’s great name sanctified, by physical return and spiritual restoration (*verse 23*) – although the physical return is partially achieved, the spiritual restoration will only be fully fulfilled when the Lord returns to rule and reign from Jerusalem
- Gathered out of all countries (*verse 24*) – not a prophecy that applied to the return from Babylon, but one partially fulfilled in this day, although awaiting complete fulfillment when the Lord returns

- Israel cleansed from filthiness and idols and given a new heart and a new spirit (verses 25 & 26) – clearly this is yet to be fulfilled and awaits the Lord’s return
- The Jews will be ‘His people’ and He shall be their God (verse 28) – a spiritual restoration yet to be fully accomplished
- The nations remaining will know the Lord has done the restoration of the land (verse 36) – sadly the nations all around do not recognize the Lord’s hand
- It seems very clear from Chapter 36 and from history that there are two returns of the Jewish people to the land
 - **The first return** – happening in a significant way since 1948 – is largely of Jews who do not know the Lord
 - These Jews will suffer in the Tribulation at the hands of the Two Beasts (see *Revelation 13*) unless they heed Yeshua’s warning to flee to the mountains (*Matthew 24: 15- 22*)
 - **The second return** will occur at the second coming of Yeshua as King and Judge at the end of the 7-year tribulation period – when he will gather all those who are truly Jews back to the land
 - It is at this time the Spiritual Restoration of the Jewish people will be fulfilled (see *Isaiah 11: 11 to 12: 6*)

It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea.

He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 11: 11-12

And in that day you will say: “O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ” Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12: 1-3

*We shall conclude with a brief look at Chapter 37 – it mirrors Chapter 36
The Focus in Chapter 37 is on Israel*

Chapter 37, Verses 1 –14: His People Brought Up from Their Graves

- **The Valley of Dry Bones** (verses 1-3)
 - **The LORD brings Ezekiel in the Spirit to a Valley full of Bones**
 - The Lord causes him to walk all through the valley
 - There were very many bones and the bones were very dry
 - **The LORD asks Ezekiel if these Bones could Live?**
 - In natural thinking... the answer would be no...quite definitely!
 - Bones are the remains of what was once alive
 - Ezekiel’s reply is quite correct ‘O Lord God, you know’
 - The Lord is one who can give life... He has done it with us... new life!

- **Prophesying to the Dry Bones (*verses 4-10*)**
 - **Ezekiel is told to Prophecy to the Bones**
 - It must have seemed a most peculiar thing for the Lord to command
 - Ezekiel had to prophesy to the bones that breath will come into them and sinews and flesh would come on them
 - The result is a great rattling, as the bones came together... and sinews and flesh came upon them
 - But the prophecy was not fulfilled – there was no breath in them
 - **Ezekiel is told to Prophecy to the Breath**
 - Ezekiel is told to prophesy to the breath – calling breath from the four winds
 - The result is that breath comes into them they stand on their feet
 - Ezekiel describes them as ‘a great army
- **The Lord Reveals to Ezekiel – This is the Whole House of Israel (*verses 11-14*)**
 - **The Lord says that the House of Israel like this Valley of Dry Bones**
 - Dry (Hebrew: *yâbêsh*, from a root meaning ashamed, confused, disappointed)
 - With No Hope (Hebrew: *tiqvâh*) – interesting!!! – the Israel national anthem is Hatikvah meaning ‘the hope’
 - Cut Off – Dispersed and Separated – from their Land and from their God
 - No Breath in Them – No Spiritual Life – In spiritual graves
 - It is a vivid picture of the dispersed Jewish people – and a picture of the disjointed Jews in Israel today with many ‘sons of Greece’, particularly in the media – still without breath in them, they do not know Yeshua as their Lord
 - **The Lord tells Ezekiel to ‘Prophecy to My People’**
 - He will open up their graves – an astonishing revelation of how the Lord sees His people – dispersed in the nations is like being in their graves
 - He will raise them out of their graves (the nations) – and bring them to the land of Israel – He will initiate a massive aliyah!
 - Then the Jewish people will know ‘that I am the Lord’ – the same motivation for Return leading to Renewal (risen from spiritual graves) as in *Chapter 36*
 - The Lord will put His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) within them and place them in their own land – the same promise as in *Chapter 36, verses 27-28*
- **These Verses Repeat, in Picture Language, the Oath the Lord made in Chapter 36**
 - **Again, the Lord reveals that Return precedes Renewal**
 - The Dry Bones came together with flesh and sinews on them – the Jewish people came together (return to the land) and were rebirthed as a nation
 - But there was no breath in them – no spiritual restoration
 - **Aliyah is, it seems, an essential prerequisite to the National Salvation of Israel**
 - Ezekiel had to prophesy to the breath – calling for God’s breath to come into the assembled bones – the Jewish people who returned to the land
 - When the breath came into them – they stood up, alive (arisen spiritually) and became a great army (the army born of God... a testimony to the nations)
 - **Aliyah is thus a Holy Work**
 - First and foremost it is God’s work – He is the driving force calling His people home... ‘I Will’ says the Lord
 - It is for the sake of His Holy Name – that the Lord be hallowed in His people... so that the nations will know that He is the Lord(*Ezekiel 36: 23*)

- Lifting up a Banner for the Nations – the regathering of His people to their land is a banner to the nations (*Isaiah 11: 12*) and the Lord calls His people in the nations to lift up that banner

Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway!

Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples!

Isaiah 62: 10

- One of the lessons from Ezekiel Chapters 36 and 37 is that the return of the Jewish people to their land and their spiritual restoration – is a very great testimony of the Lord to the gentile nations

Chapter 37, Verses 15 –28: A People United under Their King

- **Two Sticks Joined Together to Become One** (*verses 15-20*)
 - **Ezekiel is Commanded to Perform a Prophetic Act**
 - He has to take two sticks and join them together
 - On one stick he writes 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions'
 - On the other stick he writes 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim', and for all the house of Israel, his companions'
 - Ezekiel joins them together... and the Lord makes them become one
 - **It is a Prophetic Picture of what the Lord will do with His people**
 - Ezekiel will carry the two sticks made one, and show it to the Jewish people
 - He will tell that the Lord will join Joseph and Ephraim with Judah and make them one – they will be reunited as one nation
 - To some extent this has happened – when the land of Israel was created anew in 1948... but still there is a divide amongst the people... and some of the land is not yet under Israel's control
- **A Repeat of the Lord's Promise to Regather Israel into their Land** (*verses 21-23*)
 - **I Will' – It is the LORD's Doing**
 - **Physical Return**
 - He will gather them from the nations and out of all countries
 - It is a worldwide and huge return to the land of Israel
 - He will bring them into their own land and He will make them one nation – on the mountains of Israel (Judea and Samaria)
 - No more will there be two kingdom or two nations – there will be one nation and one king ruling over them – never again to be two kingdoms
 - **Spiritual Renewal**
 - There will be no more defilement with idols or detestable things
 - There will be no more transgressions – the Lord will cleanse them
 - **They will Again be God's People... and He will be Their God**
 - A repeat of the LORD's Oath in *Chapter 36, verses 25-28*
 - The Physical Return has begun... but will be fully completed when Yeshua comes again
 - The Spiritual Restoration has begun in a small way... but its national fulfilment will happen when Yeshua returns

- **One King Shall Rule the Whole of Israel** (*verses 24-25*)
 - **David, here meaning, Yeshua HaMashiach – will be King over the People**
 - Yeshua is named as ‘the Root and Offspring of David’

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”
Revelation 22: 16

- One Shepherd – in *John’s Gospel, chapter 10*, Yeshua tells the Jewish people that He is the Good Shepherd – indicating He is shepherd of Israel; and has ‘other sheep’, meaning the gentiles

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”
John 10: 11, 15-16

- Isaiah prophesied – in the passage which begins ‘Comfort, yes comfort My people!’ – of Yeshua’s rule and shepherding of His people

Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.
Isaiah 40: 9-11

- **They shall dwell in the land that the Lord gave to Jacob** (*Genesis 35: 9-12*)
 - In the land where their forefathers dwelt – they shall dwell... their children and their children’s children, forever
- **The Lord makes a Covenant of Peace with His People** (*verses 26-28*)
 - **An Everlasting Covenant**
 - He will establish them and multiply them in the land
 - He will set His sanctuary in their midst (a Millennial prophecy)
 - Sanctuary has always been at the heart of the Lord’s purposes (*Exodus 25: 8*)
 - **The Lords’ Tabernacle shall be In Their Midst**
 - The Lord will tabernacle with them (Yeshua as King)
 - **The LORD’s Purposes will be Fulfilled**
 - He will be their God and Israel will be His People
 - The nations will know that the LORD has sanctified Israel
 - His sanctuary will be in their Midst, forevermore – as prophesied by Zechariah

“Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”’
Zechariah 6: 12-13

AMEN