

## Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 37 on 02/27/2025 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

Ezekiel 37 is one of the most well-known passages in the book of Ezekiel, containing two major prophetic visions:

1. **The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)**
2. **The Prophecy of the Two Sticks (Ezekiel 37:15-28)**

### 1. The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

**Context:**

- **This vision takes place during Israel's exile in Babylon.**
- **The people of Israel feel hopeless, like "dry bones," with no future.**
- **God gives Ezekiel a vision to demonstrate His power to restore and revive.**

**Key Themes:**

- **Hopelessness and Restoration:** Israel is depicted as lifeless bones, symbolizing their despair. God promises to bring them back to life.
- **The Power of God's Word:** Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy to the bones, and as he does, they come together. This emphasizes the life-giving power of God's Word.
- **The Spirit's Role in Revival:** The bones come together but remain lifeless until God breathes His Spirit into them, showing that true life comes from the Spirit of God.
- **A Foreshadowing of Resurrection:** This passage is often seen as a foreshadowing of Israel's national restoration and the ultimate resurrection in Christ.

**Application Questions:**

- Are there "dry bones" in your life that need God's restoration?
- How can we trust God's promises even in seasons of hopelessness?
- Are we allowing the Holy Spirit to bring life into our spiritual walk?

### 2. The Prophecy of the Two Sticks (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

**Context:**

- The nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms: Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom).

- God instructs Ezekiel to take two sticks—one representing Judah and the other Israel—and join them together.

**Key Themes:**

- **Unity in God’s Plan:** God promises to reunite His people under one King.
- **The Coming of the Messiah:** The passage points to a future King from David’s line—Jesus—who will rule over a united and restored people.
- **God’s Eternal Covenant:** God promises to dwell with His people forever, a theme echoed in Revelation 21:3.

**Application Questions:**

- In what ways can we work toward unity in the body of Christ?
- How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy as the Good Shepherd and King?
- What does it mean for God to “dwell” with His people today?

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 (The Valley of Dry Bones) – Word Study**

**Verse 1:**

- **“Hand of the Lord”** – Symbolizes God’s power, direction, and guidance over Ezekiel (also seen in Ezek. 1:3, 3:14).
- **“Spirit of the Lord”** – Refers to the Holy Spirit moving Ezekiel into this prophetic vision.
- **“Valley”** – Often symbolizes a place of death or battle (e.g., Psalm 23:4, the valley of the shadow of death).
- **“Full of bones”** – Represents total desolation and hopelessness, not just a few bones, but a vast amount.

**Verse 2:**

- **“Led me around”** – God wanted Ezekiel to observe the situation fully before speaking to it.
- **“Very many”** – Emphasizes the scale of destruction and hopelessness.
- **“Very dry”** – Not just dead, but long dead—beyond human hope of restoration.

**Verse 3:**

- **“Son of man”** – A title God often uses for Ezekiel, emphasizing his humanity compared to God’s divinity.
- **“Can these bones live?”** – A humanly impossible situation; a test of faith.

- **“O Lord God, you know”** – A humble response recognizing only God has the power and wisdom to determine the answer.

**Verse 4:**

- **“Prophecy”** – To speak God’s word with authority; God’s Word carries life-giving power.
- **“Hear the word of the Lord”** – Even dead bones are commanded to listen, showing that nothing is beyond God’s reach.

**Verse 5-6:**

- **“Breath” (Hebrew: ruach)** – Can mean wind, breath, or Spirit; the same word used for God’s Spirit in Genesis 1:2 and 2:7.
- **“Sinews, flesh, skin”** – Symbolizes the process of restoration; God doesn’t just revive, He fully restores.
- **“You shall know that I am the Lord”** – The ultimate purpose: recognizing God’s power and authority.

**Verse 7-8:**

- **“Rattling”** – A physical manifestation of God’s power at work.
- **“Bones came together”** – Order is being restored.
- **“But there was no breath in them”** – Structure alone isn’t enough; spiritual life is needed.

**Verse 9-10:**

- **“Four winds”** – Symbolic of God’s Spirit working everywhere.
- **“Breath came into them”** – Echoes Genesis 2:7, where God breathed life into Adam.
- **“Exceedingly great army”** – Not just revived individuals but a strong, unified force.

**Verse 11-14:**

- **“Our bones are dried up”** – Israel’s self-perception of hopelessness.
- **“Hope is lost”** – Feeling abandoned and beyond redemption.
- **“Open your graves”** – A resurrection promise, both figurative (Israel’s return) and literal (final resurrection in Christ).
- **“Put my Spirit within you”** – The key to real life is God’s presence within.

### Verse 15-16:

- **“Word of the Lord came”** – A clear indication that this is divine revelation, not Ezekiel’s own idea.
- **“Stick”** (Hebrew: ‘ets) – A piece of wood or branch; represents the divided kingdoms.
- **“Write on it”** – Writing names signifies ownership and identification.
- **“Judah”** – The Southern Kingdom, which included the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
- **“Joseph (the stick of Ephraim)”** – Represents the Northern Kingdom of Israel, often called Ephraim (Joseph’s son), the dominant tribe.

### Verse 17:

- **“Join them”** – A prophetic act symbolizing unity.
- **“One stick”** – A clear picture of reunification.
- **“In your hand”** – Ezekiel represents God’s authority over this process.

### Verse 18:

- **“People say to you”** – The Israelites were expected to ask questions; God often uses symbolism to provoke curiosity.
- **“Tell us what you mean”** – Even in exile, they are eager to understand God’s plan.

### Verse 19:

- **“I am about to take”** – God Himself is the one doing the uniting.
- **“Stick of Joseph... stick of Judah”** – The divided kingdom is being healed.
- **“One in my hand”** – True unity comes under God’s authority.

### Verse 20-21:

- **“Before their eyes”** – A visible sign of God’s promise.
- **“Gather them”** – Echoes previous prophecies of restoration (Ezekiel 36:24).
- **“Bring them to their land”** – God’s covenant promise to return His people.

**Verse 22:** • **“One nation”** – A reversal of the division from the time of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam (1 Kings 12).

- **“One king”** – The coming Messianic King, Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32-33).
- **“No longer divided”** – A permanent restoration.

### Verse 23:

- **“Not defile themselves”** – Spiritual restoration, not just political.
- **“Idols”** – False worship led to Israel’s downfall.
- **“Save them”** – God’s salvation plan.
- **“Cleanse them”** – A foreshadowing of the cleansing through Christ (Ezekiel 36:25-27).
- **“They shall be my people, and I will be their God”** – Covenant language (Jeremiah 31:33, Revelation 21:3).

### Verse 24-25:

- **“My servant David”** – Refers to the Messiah, Jesus, the descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Luke 1:32).
- **“One shepherd”** – Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-16).
- **“Walk in my rules”** – True obedience will come from transformed hearts (Ezekiel 36:26-27).
- **“Forever”** – Eternal kingdom prophecy.

### Verse 26-27:

- **“Covenant of peace”** – A new, unbreakable covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:6).
- **“Everlasting covenant”** – Unlike the Mosaic covenant, this one will never be broken.
- **“Set my sanctuary in their midst”** – God’s presence permanently with His people, fulfilled in Christ and ultimately in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:3).

### Verse 28:

- **“The nations will know”** – God’s plan extends beyond Israel (Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 49:6).
- **“Sanctifies Israel”** – God makes His people holy.
- **“Sanctuary in their midst forevermore”** – Fulfilled through Jesus (John 1:14) and ultimately in the New Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21:22-27).

### Final Thoughts

- **This prophecy has both a historical fulfillment (Israel’s return from exile) and an ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ and His kingdom.**
  - **The two sticks represent unity under one King—Jesus.**
  - **The passage ends with a vision of God dwelling permanently with His people, which is fulfilled in Christ and the New Creation.**