

Ezekiel 37 - The Future of Israel: A Study in Bible Study (Part 2)

3. God's Clarifies the Vision with an Illustration (15-22)

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.

a. God Commands Ezekiel to Take & _____ Two Sticks

- Write on one: "For Judah and for the children of Israel".
- Write on one: "For Joseph...and for all the house of Israel".
- Join them together into one stick.

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.

b. God Commands Ezekiel to Explain the _____ of the Sticks

- God will join Israel's divided kingdom into one kingdom.

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.

c. God Commands Ezekiel to Explain the _____ of the Sticks

- God will take the children of Israel from among the nations.
- God will gather them from every side.
- God will bring them into their own land.
- God will make them one nation in the land (mnts of Israel).
- God will give one king over all of them.
- God will make them into one nation – never to be divided into two kingdoms again.

4. God Describes Israel's Future Circumstances (23-28)

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.

a. Israel's _____ future (23)

- They will no longer defile themselves.
- God will deliver them from sinful dwelling places.

- God will cleanse them.
- They will be God's people.
- God 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.

b. Israel's _____ future (24)

- David will be their king.
- They shall have one shepherd (not divided).
- They shall walk in God's judgments.
- They shall observe God's statutes.
- They shall 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.

c. Israel's _____ future (25a)

- They shall dwell in the land God gave to Jacob (Jer 16:14-15).
- They shall dwell in the land where their fathers dwelt.
- They, their children, and their children's children ...

d. Israel's _____ future (25b,26a,28b)

- They will dwell there forever.
- David will be their prince forever.
- God will make an everlasting covenant (26a).
- God's sanctuary will be in their midst forevermore (28b).

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.""

e. Israel's _____ future (26-28)

- God will make an eternal covenant of peace with them.
- God will establish them.
- God will multiply them.
- God will dwell with them in a special way (26b-27).
- The nations will recognize Israel's special place (28).

Key Takeaways:

1. **Rightly dividing the Word follows normal language.**
2. **We need to allow the Bible to interpret itself.**
3. **We need to interpret based on information in the context.**
4. **God has made clear promises to the nation of Israel, yet unfulfilled.**