

Lesson Four



Dry Bones & Two Sticks

Nothing is over until God says its over

The scene was bleak, to put it mildly. The once beautiful meadow was covered with the long-dead remains of a multitude of people. Not only were the bones sun-bleached dry, but they were scattered around. The leg bone of one man next to the skull of another next to the rib of another. One cannot be sure of the beginning of this story, but it is obvious that the end was massive death. But God...

But God had other plans. "Preach to these bones, Ezekiel." And he did. In a short while, the proud army, long since dead, stood, alive and well, bones, flesh, and even breath. Where man puts a period, God can put a coma. When things seem not just bleak, but final - keep your faith in God.

Overview of Lesson Four

- I. **God's message of retribution - *Ezekiel 1-32***
- II. **God's message of restoration - *Ezekiel 33-48***
- III. **The valley of dry bones - *Ezekiel 37***
- IV. **The regathering – 1897 - 1948**
- V. **The restoration – 1948 - Present**
 - *The three dispersions*
 - *The land*
 - *The people*
 - *The language*
- VI. **The case for all twelve tribes being in the land**
- VII. **When the Jewish people become the children of God and God becomes their God**

Follow Along Outline

The valley of dry bones

In Ezekiel 37 God takes Ezekiel out to a valley of dry bones. He asks Ezekiel, Can these bones _____ again? He tells the prophet he must _____ to these bones.

The result of Ezekiel's preaching - *Ezekiel 37:7 - 10*

- ▶ Those _____ came together.
- ▶ _____ came upon them.
- ▶ Out of the sky comes a covering of _____.
- ▶ The wind caused these flesh covered bones to _____ and to _____ up like a mighty army.

This is a three part prophecy using _____ literature. This type of literature uses a _____ to communicate an absolute truth.

- ▶ The _____ - the bones coming together. In 1897 the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland resulted in Jewish people coming into the land from 108 nations of the world. This is called _____ which means "go up to Jerusalem". The Jews are responsible to go back to the Temple Mount area in Jerusalem every pilgrim feast day – Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.
- ▶ The _____ - the flesh being put on these bones that have come together was the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel on May 15, _____. In Ezekiel 34:11-31 God says He will seek out His sheep and deliver them out of all the places where they have been scattered. God says, "I will" and repeats it _____ times.
- ▶ The _____ - at the end of the Tribulation period, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, all of Israel will be born again "in a _____." - *Zechariah 3:9*

When were the Jewish people scattered? ____ times.

1. In the first dispersion ____ and his family of 70 people were scattered to _____, and then 430 years later God brings them back into the land.
2. The second dispersion was in ____ BC in Ezekiel's day to _____, and 70 years later God brings them back into the land through Zerubbabel.
3. In ____ AD General Titus and the Roman army devastated the Temple, destroyed the city and dispersed the Jews to the four corners of the earth. Herein lies the third dispersion of the Jewish people in fulfillment of Moses' prophecy to them in Deuteronomy 28. The Arch of ____ still stands in Rome today.

In chapter 36 Ezekiel prophesies a message of _____. God says He will find the Jewish people wherever they are scattered and gather them together in the _____.

When Ezekiel talks about the Land of Israel, it is often associated with the phrase "all the house of Israel."

The land

Currently the Jewish people have only ____% of what God promised to give them. There are 38 locations in Scripture that talk about the Biblical borders of Israel.

The borders start in the South at the _____ River, Egypt, through Lebanon, to the North to the Euphrates River, taking in all of Syria, _____ and Kuwait, 3/4 of Iraq, 3/4 of Saudi Arabia and back to Egypt.

These will be the borders during the _____ Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

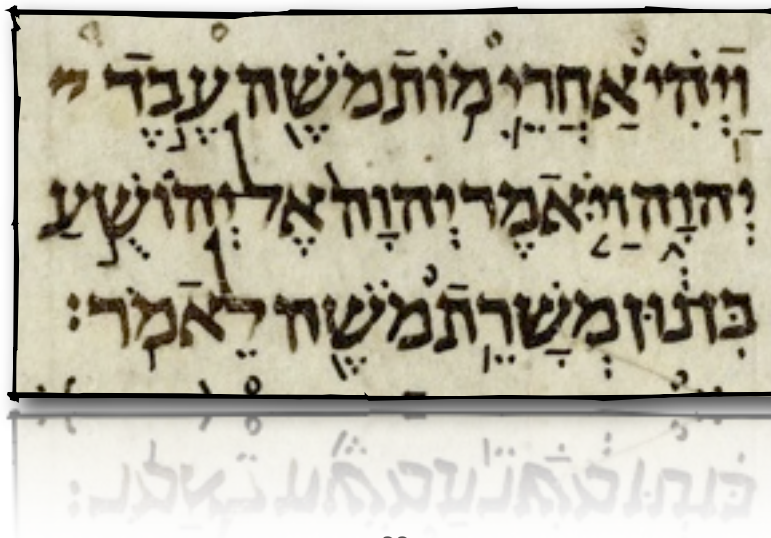


The people

- ▶ In _____ the first Zionist Congress was held, and Jews started coming back into the land.
- ▶ Since 1991 1.3 million Russian Jews have come to live in the land, an increase of one nation by ____%. This has never happened in the history of the world.
- ▶ On May 24, 1991 the greatest airlift in history occurred when 42 aircraft transported _____ Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Fourteen babies were born in flight.
- ▶ At the Ben Gurion airport the Israeli government provided a _____ for them. The Ethiopians did not know how to eat it. As Jimmy helped them, he participated in the prophecy of Zephaniah 3:10.

The language

For 2,000 years _____ has been a dead language. It is now restored in Israel in fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:23 and Zephaniah 3:9. God has brought and continues to bring the Jewish people from 108 different nations, dialects and languages back into the land, and they now speak the one language, _____.



THE CASE FOR ALL TWELVE TRIBES BEING IN THE LAND

The divided kingdom

- ▶ In Ezekiel 37:15 two sticks representing _____ and _____ become one stick.
- ▶ Ezekiel 38 speaks of the alignment of the nations, a coalition of _____ nations that come against the Jewish state.

How can one authenticate the Word of God?

- ▶ Isaiah prophesies 150 years _____ the fact of Cyrus allowing the Jews to go back and rebuild their Temple.
- ▶ Ezra, 150 years _____ that prophecy in Isaiah, records exactly what happened. Almost 50,000 people go back to Jerusalem to build the Temple. Ezra 2:28, 29.

The word Israel is used in one of three ways in the Bible.

- ▶ It is used as the name of _____ when God changed his name to _____ in Genesis 32.
- ▶ It is used to describe all _____ tribes.
- ▶ It is used to describe the _____ tribes that went to the North.
- ▶ It is _____ used to describe the two tribes that stayed in the South.

The priests and Levites come from the tribe of Levi, not those two other southern tribes, Benjamin and Judah. They offered at the dedication of the house of God 100 bullocks, 200 rams and 400 lambs for a sin offering for _____ of Israel. All twelve tribes were in the land.

In Matthew 10:5, 6 the disciples are instructed by Jesus to go to the lost sheep of the house of _____, not to the Gentiles or Samaritans.

Ezekiel uses the word Judah _____ times and Israel 169 times.

All 12 tribes were in the land since the time of Ezra, since the time of Jesus Christ, on the day of _____ and before the _____ of the church.

Then they become two different Jewish states – _____ and _____, and continue as such throughout the seven year Tribulation period.

In Ezekiel 37:22 they again become _____ nation of twelve tribes.

When do the Jewish people become the children of God and God become their God?

- ▶ This occurs when _____ comes back. The Jewish people turn to Christ in a day.

At the Rapture of the Church, Israel becomes two nations,
Israel and Judah.

At the Return of Christ they become one nation again.

What are the current events that relate to this matter?

- ▶ Prime Minister Ehud Olmert promised Israel will evacuate Judea and _____, the West Bank, because the European Union, the United States, the United Nations and Russia say it must be given to the _____. 500,000 Jews live there, 10% of the population of Israel. They went there at the behest of Ariel Sharon after the six day war in 1967.
- ▶ Part of this area is the _____ in Jerusalem, the most sacred piece of real estate to any Jew, and the Garden of Eden.
- ▶ The Israeli government is ready to give this land back, something they did in 2005 when they _____ 10,000 Jews out of 25 Jewish settlements in the Gaza strip.
- ▶ There are those living in Samaria and Judea who say they will not be extracted, their alternative being the establishment of a _____ Jewish state. The constitution for the state of Judah is currently written and ready.
- ▶ _____ the second Jewish state is formed, the Rapture of the Church occurs. That is how close we are. How then should we live?

Conclusion

The prophetic sequence is from Ezekiel 2,500 years ago to...

- ▶ God gathering the Jews into the land,
- ▶ God giving them back their language,
- ▶ The forming of a second Jewish state preceded by the Rapture of the Church.
- ▶ If we are indeed that close, are you prepared for Jesus to come back?

Think About This!

1. What do the events of the valley of the dry bones represent?
2. What are the three Diasporas?
3. How many tribes of Israel will be in the land when Christ returns?
4. What do the two sticks becoming one represent?
5. When will the nation of Judah be formed?