

Is there anything too difficult for God? Is it possible for God to breathe life back into a lifeless carcass of a nation - a nation in shambles? Does God truly have Israel's future in His hands? Does He have our future in His hands?

Why do we worry and fret as we do? God is in control! God is on His throne! When we see Israel as a country and as a people today, we should stand amazed at God's awesomeness and power. He is a covenant-keeping God - all-powerful - all-knowing - all-loving. You can trust Him with your life! Lean into His everlasting arms and trust that there is a purpose for everything that is happening around you. He is a great and mighty God and worthy of your praise!

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

For the next two days we are going to be observing Ezekiel 36. It is full of juicy little nuggets, and we don't want to miss anything. You are going to approach the study of this chapter in a little different manner so make sure that you read the directions well and remember that you have two days to complete this.

1. Start with prayer before diving into this chapter.
2. Read Ezekiel 36 distinctively marking these two phrases. (Don't mark anything else right now.)
 - a. *mountains of Israel* (mark this the same way you did last week)
 - b. *My people Israel/House of Israel* (the same way you have been marking it)
3. Now go back and review your markings. Can you see a division in this chapter? Where would that division be?
4. Since there is a message to the mountains of Israel, and another to the house of Israel, we are going to view the chapter according to the two messages. Observe Ezekiel 36:1-15, the prophecy to the mountains of Israel. As you do this, make sure that you are marking all that is on your key marking card. Continue to mark the "*because . . . therefore*" connections. There is one other word you want to look for and mark in this chapter. Mark the word *bereaved*.

8. Record paragraph themes.

a. 36:16-21

b. 36:22-32

c. 36:33-36

d. 36:37-38

9. Make a list of the “I wills” that you observed in this section.

10. Why is all this going to happen and how will God bring it about?

11. Looking at the paragraph themes from both sections of this chapter, determine a chapter theme and record it on your Observation Worksheets and “At a Glance” chart.

12. Let’s look at some cross references that help us to allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. Record how each of these passages relate to Ezekiel 36.

a. Ezekiel 11:14-21

b. Ezekiel 34:11-31

c. Jeremiah 31:31-34

d. Romans 11:25-29

13. What will the nations (including Israel) know when this has all happened?

DAY 3

1. Start off today by reading Ezekiel 36 and 37 together. Watch the flow of thought from one chapter to the next.
2. Now take the time to observe Ezekiel 37. Mark the words that are on your marking card as well as the ones listed below.
 - a. *bones*
 - b. *graves*
 - c. *king/kingdoms*

- d. *sanctuary/temple* (you have marked this before but you don't want to miss it)
 - e. *breath/breathe*
 - f. *life* (and any form of the word)
 - g. *sticks*
3. Walk through Ezekiel 37 again, and give each paragraph a theme and record them here and on your Observation Worksheets.
- a. Ezekiel 37:1-6
 - b. Ezekiel 37:7-10
 - c. Ezekiel 37:11-14
 - d. Ezekiel 37:15-23
 - e. Ezekiel 37:24-28
4. How does Ezekiel 37 relate to Ezekiel 36?
5. What do you learn about people "*know that I am the Lord?*"
6. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 37.
7. Let's take a look at some of the words that you marked and record what you learned about each.
- a. *breath/breathe*

- b. *Spirit* (record what you learn about the *Spirit* from both chapter 36 and 37)
8. Using your study tools, look up the Hebrew word for breath and Spirit. Record what you learn.
9. From what you have studied, what would you conclude about the Spirit of God and Israel's salvation?
10. You have seen the relationship between *breath*, the *Spirit*, and how it was interconnected with salvation in regards to Israel. Let's look at that same concept in the church today. Read through the following passages and note what you learned about the relationship between the Spirit and salvation.
- a. John 3:3-8
- b. John 7:37-39
- c. John 14:15-17

d. Acts 1:4-8

e. Romans 8:9

f. Ephesians 1:13-14

DAY 4

1. Start today by reading through Ezekiel 36 and 37 again. Record the procession of events that are going to occur. Indicate chapter and verse and each event. If it occurs in both chapters, you need only to record it once but include both references.

2. According to these chapters, what is the future of Israel?
 - a. What does God tell you in chapter 37 that isn't mentioned in chapter 36?
 - b. Have these events occurred yet? Why or why not?

3. God is telling us what He is going to do for the house of Israel. Read Ezekiel 37:15-28 and record (from the text only) what you learn as you answer the following questions. Read through all the questions before you start.
 - a. Who are the two sticks?
 - b. What will happen to the two sticks? Be detailed in your explanation.
 - c. How long will they stay there?
 - d. What will they be like once they get there?
 - e. What will the two sticks become?
 - f. Who will be their king and for how long?

- g. What will the Lord make with the two sticks that become one and for how long?
 - h. Where will the Lord dwell?
 - i. Where will the Lord's sanctuary be and for how long?
 - j. What will the nations become?
4. Read Ezekiel 34:23-31. Do you see any parallels between the passage we are studying in Ezekiel 37?
5. We have talked about Ezekiel being a contemporary (prophesying at the same time) as Daniel and Jeremiah. Ezekiel and Daniel were part of the captives that were carried off to Babylon. Jeremiah was writing at the same time but was one of those who were still in Jerusalem. Jeremiah also talked about David. Read the following passages and record what you learn from Jeremiah about David.
- a. Jeremiah 30:1-11
 - b. Jeremiah 33:1-26

DAY 5

The Bible has much to say about the regathering of Israel. God's focus throughout history has been on His people, Israel. From Israel came the Messiah, who would give His life to bring Jew and Gentile into one body through His Spirit, thus bring His blessing to all the nations of the world fulfilling the covenant promise given to Abraham. God is not done with His people, Israel, yet. They still need to recognize Jesus Christ as the promised One, the Messiah who was sent to them and rejected by them. As a nation, they haven't yet come to that point, but they will. That is what Daniel's 70th week is all about. God will bring judgment so they will know that He is God and turn to Him. They needed to be gathered back together again as a nation. The two sticks have been made into one and gathered from the nations to which they were dispersed and brought back into their land of Israel which was given back to them in 1948. What a wonderful fulfillment of prophecy that was, but the testing is still to come. Daniel's 70th week, the tribulation time, the time of Jacob's trouble, will be when God shakes them up and wakes them up. Oh, people, the best is yet to come. God is still at work in this world!

1. Let's see what these passages have to say about the regathering of Israel, the Spirit of God, and what is going to take place.
 - a. Isaiah 11 (You have read this passage once before in this study, so it may sound familiar. As a reminder Jesse was the father of David. Note what this passage says about the dispersion of Israel.)

b. Isaiah 60

c. Jeremiah 32:36-44

d. Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31-46 (note who is teaching these truths)

e. Ezekiel 36:24-28

4. This is a very important question. Think through this very carefully. Write out your answer in a way that you could clearly explain this to another person. Is it necessary to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved or will the Jews be saved apart from acknowledging Jesus Christ - that He is the Son of God - that He died to save them from their sins - that He is the only Way, Truth, and Life and no one comes to the Father but by Him? What does a person need in order to be saved and how is that attained? What is the promise of the New Covenant poured out in His blood?

IF YOU HAVE TIME

1. You can see what your commentaries have to say about Ezekiel 36-37.
2. We have looked at both the redemption of Israel and the redemption of the church. The church, that mystery, is God bringing Jew and Gentile together as one body, one mind, with one Spirit. Jew or Gentile, we are all saved through faith, it is a gift of God, and nothing that we can earn or deserve in and of ourselves. Our salvation comes from Jesus' redemptive work on the cross that began before the foundations of the earth were laid. The Jews of the Old Testament looked forward to God fulfilling the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They looked for a home that was not of this world (for they were only sojourning on earth). They longed to be in the presence of the God who reached out to them in love and compassion and chose them as His own. They anticipated having an unending relationship, a perfect communion, with their Creator that would last for all eternity. While here on this earth, God gave them feasts and festivals to show them what was to come - a promise of their future, a hope for tomorrow. He painted a picture through those feasts of what the promised seed, the coming Messiah, would do for them. They had faith in what was to come. Today we have faith looking back on what Jesus has done. Let's take a look at the picture that God painted for the Israelite people. There is a chart at the end of this lesson. Take a good long look at it, and then we will take a closer look.
3. There are three main feasts. What are they called?
4. Now let's focus on each one. Let's start with the Feast or Festival of Passover.
 - a. There are three parts to that feast. What are they?
 - b. What did the people do as part of that feast?
 - c. On the Passover, they killed the lamb. Read these verses and record how this was going to be fulfilled by Jesus.
 - 1) John 1:29-36
 - 2) John 19:13-19

3) I Corinthians 5:7

4) Luke 22:14-20 (watch the *new covenant* and the *coming of the kingdom of God*)

5. Passover was fulfilled when Jesus came and died and was resurrected on the third day. The Jews would then start counting the Omer (50 days) the day after Passover that would lead to the next major festival - Pentecost. Jesus told His disciples that He needed to go so the Helper could come (John 16:5-11). Several things happened in those 50 days. Jesus rose from the dead on First Fruits. He appeared to many, He ascended into heaven with the disciples watching. He had told them to return to Jerusalem to wait for the promised Spirit (Acts 1:3-5). This would be the beginning of the church age - the next big event on the redemption calendar. Let's take a look at the Feast of Pentecost. Watch for references concerning the Holy Spirit.

a. Acts 2:1-4

b. Acts 2:33, 38-39

c. I Corinthians 12:13

6. Since the first and second feasts were fulfilled by Jesus' first coming, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, it makes sense to assume that the final feasts will relate to the second coming of Jesus Christ and the events that surround that. So let's take a look at the fall feasts.

a. What are the three parts of the Festival of Booths and tell what happens with each one?

- b. How will this be fulfilled in the future (since we know it hasn't happened yet)?
Look up each Scripture in the prophetic part of the chart. Record what you learn.

Take some time a praise God for who He is! Surely, through all that we have studied, Israel, the nations, and you and I will know that He alone is God. Thank Him for bringing His plan to fruition. Even though His thoughts are not my thoughts, or His ways my ways, we know that He is in control and nothing happens without a purpose to bring about His plan of salvation for Jew and Gentile alike. Isn't God awesome!

Seven Jewish Feasts
 Appointed Feasts (Convocations) of Leviticus 23
Col 2:17 - "... things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

Spring Feasts			Fall Feasts		
Nissan 14	Nissan 15	Sivan 7	Tishrei 1	Tishrei 10	Tishrei 15
Festival of Passover			Festival of Booths		
Passover Kill lamb, put blood on doorpost (Ex. 12:6-7; Mt. 26:17-27)	Unleavened Bread Purge all leaven (symbol of sin)	Firstfruits Wave offering of sheaf (Promise of harvest to come)	Trumpets Trumpet blown - a holy convocation (gathering)	Day of Atonement Atonement made to cleanse (Zech 12:10; 13:1)	Tabernacles Harvest celebration - memorial of booths in wilderness (Is 65:17-19; Ez 43:7; Micah 4:1-3)
Counting the Omer Counting begins the day after firstfruits 50 days brings you to Pentecost	Wave offering of two loaves of leavened bread	50 days after firstfruits (Lev. 23:15-21)	7th month 1st day (Lev 23:23-25)	7th month 10th day (Lev. 23:26-32)	7th month 15th day for 7 days - 8th day Holy Convocation (Lev 23:33-44)
New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts			New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts		
Crucifixion Christ our Passover (Jn 18:28; I Cor 5:7)	Burial Clean out old leaven - die to self (I Cor 5:7-8; Jn 6:47-52)	Holy Spirit Promise of the Spirit, Jew and Gentile - one body (Acts 1:1-2:47; I Cor 12:13; Eph 2:11-22)	Gathering? Rapture/Jews Caught together with Him in clouds (I Thes 4:13-18; Rev 4:1-6; I Cor 15:51-52; Phil 3:20-21)	2nd Coming Israel will repent and look to the Messiah (Mt 24:29-30; Rev 19:11-21; II Thes 1:5-10; Ro 11:25-27)	Millennium 1,000 year reign (Rev 20:1-6; Rev 21:1-27; Rev 22:1-6; Jn 14:1-6)
Fulfilled at Christ's First Coming Priestly role - Suffering Servant			Church Age To be Fulfilled at Christ's 2nd Coming Kingly role - Coming King		

New Heaven
 New Earth
 New Jerusalem
 God dwells (tabernacles) with man (Rev 21:1-3)

Ezekiel

Lesson 11, Chapters 36-37