

EZEKIEL 37

I. The vision of the valley of dry bones.

- a. This is one of the parts of the book that br. Coffman said that people had some knowledge.
- b. However, most of the knowledge about this chapter is false knowledge.
- c. What was Ezekiel's vision?
 - i. Remember that this chapter is in the section of Ezekiel where he was restoring hope to a people who had none.
 - ii. This vision has to have something to do with bringing back hope to his people.
- d. The fact is, it is a very simple vision (Ezekiel 37:1-10).
- e. God does not let us wonder what it means because Ezekiel was given the meaning of it recorded in Ezekiel 37:11-14.
 - i. God promised to restore life to Israel.
 - ii. They felt as if they would all die in captivity and as if the land in which they had all been placed was their tomb.
 - iii. God said that such was not the case and that He would restore them to their land.
 - iv. They would know that He was in control when such occurred.
- f. This vision has nothing to do with national Israel receiving their land when the Lord comes to rule in Jerusalem as Premillennialism teaches.
- g. That idea gives no hope to those people in captivity and it is false because Jesus is never going to set foot on earth again.
- h. God promised to restore Israel to their homeland and that they would not all die in captivity, which the book of Nehemiah shows to have happened, as well as Ezra during the reign of Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire.

II. The prophecy of the two sticks.

- a. Ezekiel 37:15-28 give a prophecy of the church but most do not realize this.
- b. In fact, the Latter Day Saints teach that one stick is Judah and the other stick is Mormonism (mention long article on this from lds.org).
- c. Ezekiel was told to take two sticks and write For Judah on one and For Joseph on the other.
 - i. These sticks represent the two kingdoms after the division into north and south.
 - ii. Judah is the southern kingdom and Joseph is the northern kingdom because Ephraim was the largest of the tribes in the northern kingdom.
- d. Ezekiel is then told to unite the two sticks into one stick.
- e. God then gives the meaning of the prophecy through the end of the chapter.
- f. This visual aid was to be an encouragement to the Jews who were so discouraged about being in captivity.

