

Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 19, Vision of Israel's Rising Again (Ezek 37:1-28) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 19, Vision of Israel's Rising Again (Ezek 37:1-28), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture focuses on Ezekiel 37:1-28, exploring the vision of Israel's restoration and reunification under one king. The lecture interprets the symbolic vision of dry bones coming to life as a metaphor for the exiles' hope for renewal and return to their homeland. **Allen connects this vision to both lament traditions in the Psalms and the New Testament, specifically highlighting its influence on John 20:22 and Romans 11:15.** Furthermore, the lecture examines Ezekiel's symbolic action of joining two sticks representing the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, signifying their eventual unification. **The lecture concludes by noting that the themes of temple, covenant, king, and land in these passages foreshadow the visions presented in Ezekiel 40-48, and that chapters 36 and 37 are organically unified.**

2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 19 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Ezekiel).



**Allen_Ezekiel_Sessi
on19.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 19, Vision of Israel's Rising Again (Ezek 37:1-28)

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture on Ezekiel 37:1-28, "Vision of Israel's Rising Again, Sign of One People with One King."

Briefing Document: Ezekiel 37 - Vision of Israel's Restoration

Main Themes:

- **Hope and Restoration After Despair:** Ezekiel 37 offers a powerful message of hope and restoration for the exiled Israelites, who felt utterly defeated and spiritually dead. The vision of the dry bones coming to life is a powerful metaphor for God's ability to revive and restore His people, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.
- **Reunification of Israel:** The symbolic action of joining two sticks representing Judah (Southern Kingdom) and Joseph/Ephraim/Manasseh (Northern Kingdom) illustrates the future reunification of the divided nation of Israel under one king.
- **Renewal of Covenant Relationship:** The restoration involves not just physical return to the land, but also a spiritual renewal, characterized by a renewed covenant relationship with God, cleansed from idolatry and transgression. This is emphasized by the phrase "They shall be my people, and I will be their God".
- **The Role of God's Spirit:** The infusion of breath/spirit into the reanimated bodies and the promise of God putting His spirit within them highlight the crucial role of God's Spirit in bringing about this restoration and enabling obedience.
- **Fulfillment of Prophecy and Foreshadowing:** The lecture connects Ezekiel's vision with New Testament themes, suggesting allusions to Ezekiel 37 in John 20:22 (Jesus breathing on the disciples) and Romans 11:15 (Paul's discussion of the grafting back of Jewish branches into the olive tree), thus showing how Ezekiel's prophecy is a prelude to later biblical events. Ezekiel's vision also sets the agenda for chapters 40-48, which describe the temple, covenant, king, and land.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Context:** Ezekiel 37 is presented as the culminating point of part 5 of the book (chapters 33-37), a positive and hopeful conclusion to messages of salvation. It acts as a "climactic flourish to Ezekiel's messages of salvation."
- **The Vision of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14):** The exiles see themselves as hopeless: "our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost and we are cut off completely." (Verse 11)
- Ezekiel is taken to a valley full of dry bones, symbolic of the spiritually dead state of Israel in exile.
- God asks Ezekiel, "Mortal, can these bones live?" (Verse 3)
- Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy to the bones, and miraculously, they come together, are covered with sinews, flesh, and skin, but are still lifeless.
- Ezekiel is then told to prophesy to the breath/wind/spirit to come from the four winds and breathe life into the bodies. This reanimates the bodies into a "vast army."
- The two-stage miracle highlights God's immense power and may allude to God's creation of humankind from clay and then the breath of life in Genesis 2.
- The vision emphasizes the role of the prophet as God's agent in transmitting the message of salvation.
- Verse 14 says, "I will put my spirit within you," plainly stating the connection between the breath and God's spirit.
- **Interpretation of the Vision (Ezekiel 37:11-14):** The bones represent "the whole house of Israel" (Verse 11).
- God promises to open their graves, bring them up from their graves, and bring them back to the land of Israel.
- This return is likened to a resurrection from the dead, reversing their death-like condition in exile. "I am going to open your graves, bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel." (Verse 12)
- The new spirit breathed into them will be God's spirit.
- **The Symbolic Action of the Two Sticks (Ezekiel 37:15-28):** Ezekiel is instructed to take two sticks, one representing Judah and the other representing

Joseph/Ephraim/Manasseh (the Northern Kingdom), and join them together in his hand.

- This symbolizes the reunification of Israel into one nation under one king.
- The joined stick can be interpreted as a royal scepter, symbolizing royal office.
- God will gather the people from among the nations and bring them to their own land (Verse 21).
- "I will make them one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king over them." (Verse 22)
- Under this one king, the people will be cleansed from idolatry and live according to God's ways.
- The covenant relationship will be perfectly realized: "then they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Verse 23).
- **Echoes of Ezekiel 36:** Dr. Allen emphasizes the organic unity between chapters 36 and 37, highlighting the repetition of themes such as the gift of a new spirit, obedience to God's statutes, and living in the land.
- **Fulfillment and Foreshadowing (Ezekiel 37:25-28):** God promises that they, their children, and their children's children will live in the land forever.
- David will be their prince forever.
- God will make an everlasting covenant of peace with them.
- God's sanctuary will be among them forevermore.
- This section sets the agenda for chapters 40-48, which will elaborate on the temple, covenant, king, and land. "This mention of the temple, the covenant, the king, and the land all these items are going to be picked up and discussed at greater length in chapters 40 to 48."

Quotes:

- "The exiles are saying our bones are dried up and our hope is lost and we are cut off completely."
- "Mortal, can these bones live?"
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- "I am going to open your graves, bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel."
- "I will make them one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king over them. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms."
- "Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God."
- "This mention of the temple, the covenant, the king, and the land all these items are going to be picked up and discussed at greater length in chapters 40 to 48."

Conclusion:

Ezekiel 37 is a pivotal chapter in the book of Ezekiel, offering a powerful vision of hope, restoration, and reunification for the exiled Israelites. It emphasizes God's power to bring life out of death, both physically and spiritually, and to establish an everlasting covenant with His people. It also foreshadows themes and prophecies that will be further developed in the later chapters of Ezekiel and resonates with themes developed in the New Testament.

4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 19, Vision of Israel's Rising Again (Ezek 37:1-28)

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5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 19, Vision of Israel's Rising Again (Ezek 37:1-28), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Ezekiel 37 FAQ

- **What is the main focus of Ezekiel 37?**
- Ezekiel 37 contains two major themes: the vision of the valley of dry bones (verses 1-14), symbolizing the restoration of Israel, and the symbolic action of the two sticks (verses 15-28), representing the reunification of the northern and southern kingdoms under one king. The chapter focuses on hope and renewal for the exiled Israelites.
- **What is the significance of the valley of dry bones vision?**
- The vision addresses the exiles' despair, who felt "dried up," hopeless, and "cut off completely" (Ezekiel 37:11). God shows Ezekiel a valley full of dry bones and asks if they can live. Through Ezekiel's prophecy, the bones come together, are covered with flesh, and are filled with breath (or spirit), becoming a vast army. This symbolizes God's power to resurrect Israel from its seemingly dead state of exile and restore them to their land and former glory.
- **What is the meaning of the two-stage revitalization of the bones in the vision?**
- The two-stage process of the bones first forming skeletons and then being covered with flesh, followed by the breath entering them, could represent the difficulty of the task of restoring Israel. It also emphasizes God's immense power to perform this miracle and create new life, similar to the creation account in Genesis 2 where God forms man from clay and then breathes life into him.
- **How is the vision of the dry bones connected to the New Testament?**
- The lecture suggests connections to John 20:22, where the risen Jesus breathes on his disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit," echoing Ezekiel 37's promise of God putting His spirit within them. Paul's writings in Romans 9-11, where he speaks of Jewish branches being pruned from the olive tree (representing God's people) to allow Gentile branches to be grafted in, and the eventual re-grafting of the Jewish branches, are also seen as related to the imagery of life from the dead in Ezekiel 37. Paul seemed to carry Ezekiel's vision in his heart as a clue and assurance that his fellow Jews would one day acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.

- **What is the symbolic action involving the two sticks, and what does it represent?**
- Ezekiel is instructed to take two sticks, write "Judah" on one (representing the southern kingdom) and "Joseph" on the other (representing the northern kingdom), and then hold them together so they appear as one. This symbolizes the reunification of the divided kingdoms of Israel into a single nation under one king.
- **How does the image of the two sticks becoming one relate to kingship and governance?**
- The lecture posits a secondary interpretation of the two sticks as a royal scepter. This connects the reunification of the kingdoms to the idea of a single, unified leadership. The "one king" mentioned in Ezekiel 37:22 will be responsible for governing the people and ensuring they live righteously, free from idolatry and transgressions.
- **What does Ezekiel 37 say about the covenant between God and Israel?**
- Ezekiel 37 emphasizes the restoration and renewal of the covenant relationship between God and Israel. God promises to cleanse them from their sins, dwell among them, and be their God, while they will be His people. This fulfills the covenant formula found in other parts of the Old Testament, signifying a perfect realization of the relationship. The mention of an everlasting covenant suggests the permanence of these restored blessings.
- **How does Ezekiel 37 relate to the later chapters (40-48) of the book?**
- The lecture states that Ezekiel 37 sets the agenda for the detailed visions and descriptions found in chapters 40-48. The mention of the temple, the covenant, the king, and the land in Ezekiel 37 serves as a theological preview of the themes that will be elaborated on in those later chapters, preparing the reader for the visionary portrayal of these concepts.