

## DEM BONES DEM DRY BONES

Isaiah 11:11-12 deals with the return of Israel to the land in the last days. The second main text that deals with Israel's Last Days' return is found in Ezek. 37:1-14. In this text, God brings Ezekiel to a valley full of very dry bones. The bones have no life in them.

Ezekiel was to prophesy over these bones that they may live. As Ezekiel prophesies, the bones come together and have flesh and skin restored; but verse 8 tells us they have ***“no breath in them”***. The picture is one of corpses coming together, but the bodies have no spiritual life in them.

This is a picture of where Israel is at today. They are a valley of DRY bones being restored, but yet with no life. They are a secular people back in the land, but without spiritual life.

We support a converted Jew who is a church planter in Israel. He tells me that 80% of the Jews living there today claim to be atheists. They have “no life”.

God then tells Ezekiel in verse 9 to prophesy again to summon the breath of life to enter them. He does so, and in verse 10 the breath came into them and they lived – an exceedingly great army.

In verses 11-14, further explanation is given. Verses 11-12 show that the dry bones are the whole house of Israel who are brought back into the land, corresponding to Ezekiel's first prophecy in Ezek. 37:1-8 in which the dry bones while coming together still “had no breath [life] in them.”

Then in verse 14, He tells the dead corpses, “I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live,” corresponding to Ezekiel's second prophecy as seen in Ezekiel 37:9-14.

Thus, in view in Ezek. 37 are TWO prophecies regarding TWO phases of the second return. The first prophecy relates to phase one, as seen in the people of Israel being brought back to the land in unbelief, without the Spirit, and without life (cf. Ezek. 20:33-38; 22:17-22; 36:22-24; Ezek. 37-39; Dan. 9:24-27; Zech. 2:1-2). This corresponds to the 1948 return up until the present time.

The second prophecy relates to phase two involving restoration to the land with the Spirit and with life which will take place in conjunction with the Second Coming of Christ, which also corresponds to the Isa. 11:11-12

passage (cf. Deut. 4:29-31; 30:1-10; Isa. 43:5-7; Jer. 16:14-15; 31:7-10, Ezek. 11:17-20; Joel 3:1; Amos 9:14-15; Zech. 10:8-12; Mt. 24:31; Rom. 11:26-27).

Isaiah 11:11-12 established that there would be a SECOND return, and that it would be from the whole earth. Ezek. 37:1-14 reveals that this SECOND return will be in two stages – first in UNBELIEF as dry bones, and then in BELIEF with the Spirit of life.

Another OT passage that fits in here is Zeph. 2:1-2:

### **Zephaniah 2:1–2 (NKJV)**

1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation,  
2 Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the  
LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD's  
anger comes upon you!

Note that this re-gathering takes place while the people of Israel are still “undesirable”. In other words, it happens while they are still spiritually dead. They are still unrepentant. So, this will happen when they are still in UNBELIEF. This gathering takes place BEFORE the Day of the LORD's anger – which is to say, before the Tribulation Period.

Daniel 9:27 shows that Antichrist will confirm a covenant with many Jews for a 7-year period. In order for Antichrist to enter into a 7-year covenant with Israel (which begins the Tribulation Period), there will have to be an Israel re-established in the land in the Last Days. That was not in view until 1948, but it is now. They are back in the land in blindness (cf. Rom. 11:25)!

Zephaniah and Daniel collaborate to show that a Jewish re-gathering to the land will take place while they are still UNDESIRABLE and in unbelief. They show this will happen BEFORE the Day of the Lord, and before Antichrist signs a 7-year covenant with Israel.

Israel must be re-gathered and back in the land before LAST DAYS' prophecy can be fulfilled.

Another reason they must be gathered first in unbelief is because God's intention is to put them in place to then PURGE out the rebels, as seen in Ezekiel 20:34-38 and Ezekiel 22:17-22. This Last Days' purging is further specified in Zech. 13:8-9.

### **Zechariah 13:8–9 (NKJV)**

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But **one-third shall be left in it:**

9 **I will bring the one-third through the fire,** Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. **They will call on My name,** And I will answer them. I will say, **‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’**”

This is part of the purpose for the 1948 phase of the Second Return. God has brought them back into the land to purge them. The surviving remnant that will be able to possess the land at Christ’s Second Coming will be those who come to call upon the Name of the Lord (cf. Joel 2:32).

The Bible does not teach a THIRD or a FOURTH return – only a SECOND, as seen in Isaiah 11:11. This return from the 4 corners of the earth has 2 phases. The first phase is in unbelief, prior to the Tribulation period. The second phase is in conjunction with the Second Coming.

The first phase of this second return has been happening right before our eyes for many years. Since prophetically the SECOND return will culminate in Israel’s eventual spiritual revival – and since they are back in the land since 1948, the only possible conclusion is that indeed Israel being back in the land is a fulfillment of Last Days’ prophecy.

Just like the first return from Babylon involved a number of phases spread over 92 years, so the second return now in process involves 2 phases and is spread over quite a few years. We just don’t know how many. But, the prophetic stage from every angle appears to just about be set. It is wrong to set any dates, but ISRAEL is back in the land, which is the major prophetic signal that the Last Days’ prophecies are about to be fulfilled.

The Bible teaches there would be two disciplinary departures from the land for national Israel and two returns. The returns happen in STAGES. Israel is back in the land. That is stage one for Last Days’ events. That is why Israel back in the land is called ***“The Last Days’ Super Sign”***.