

## Ezekiel Part 45 (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

1. **37:15-23** Ezekiel was commanded to perform a symbolic action as he had done in several of his other messages.
2. He took two sticks and identified them with inscriptions representing the two former kingdoms of Judah and Israel.
3. Each inscription mentioned Israel, indicating that the two kingdoms were always recognized as an ethnic/theological unity.
4. It was through this illustration that he portrayed the reunification of the restored nation.
5. Ezekiel did not use the name "Israel" for the Northern Kingdom, instead he used the name "Joseph" or "Ephraim" (vv. 16, 19).
6. The Northern Kingdom had consisted largely of Ephraim and Manasseh. Jeroboam I (first king of the Northern Kingdom) was an Ephraimite. (1 Kings 12:25)
7. Ephraim became a popular designation for the tribes of the northern kingdom under his leadership.
8. Ezekiel explained that God was going to join (lit. "give") Joseph to Judah.
9. **37:24-28** Ezekiel had previously informed them in 34:23-24 that the restored nation would have "my servant David" as their king.
10. They would be united under "one shepherd." Also, two new elements were added in this restatement of the promise.
11. First, the people would be restored to the land forever (v. 26; cf. 16:60).
12. Second, a sanctuary would again be constructed among them that would remain forever. (Mention of this house of worship here is a prelude to the temple vision of 40:1-44:31)
13. The reestablished kingdom will have an everlasting king who will be "my servant David," an everlasting "covenant of peace," an everlasting "sanctuary," and an everlasting blessing.
14. It is clear from the text that all of these promises were not fulfilled after the first return from Babylon.
15. Prophecy often had an immediate, limited fulfillment but also a long-range, more complete fulfillment.

16. Ezekiel was describing details, many of which would be fulfilled in a future permanent return beyond the immediate purview of the return from Babylon.
17. There are thirteen promises made to Israel in 37:15–28 that illustrated God’s determination to restore and reestablish the nation of Israel.
18. A large portion of O.T. prophecy is concerned with the restoration of the nation to the land since the covenants could not be fulfilled apart from this regathering.

Isaiah 43:5-7

Ezekiel 20:42

Micah 4:6

Zechariah 10:6-10

Jeremiah 12:15

Ezekiel 28:25-26

Zephaniah 3:20

19. This vision is a picture of the way God will bring His people “back to the land of Israel.”