

Read Ezekiel 37:15-28. Just before this passage, Ezekiel was given the breathtaking vision of dry bones coming back to life - a picture of Israel's restoration from exile. Now the prophet takes the message a step further. God tells him to take two sticks, one for Judah and one for Joseph, representing the divided northern and southern kingdoms. For more than two centuries these nations had lived in hostility. Yet Ezekiel is told to bring the two sticks together in his hand so that they appear as one. The message is unmistakable: the God who brings life out of death can also bring unity out of division.

When the people ask what the sticks mean, Ezekiel explains that God Himself will gather His scattered people and make them one nation with one king over them. Their reunion will not be political convenience but divine restoration. The language echoes through Scripture and reaches its fullest meaning in Christ. The New Testament sees this promise fulfilled as Jews and Gentiles are brought together into one redeemed people (*Romans 9:25; 1 Peter 2:10*). What Ezekiel symbolized with two sticks, God accomplishes through the Gospel.

The prophecy also points to the coming of Jesus Christ. Under His gentle leadership, God's people are cleansed, renewed, and taught to walk in His ways. And the land promised to Abraham points beyond geography to the Kingdom over which Christ reigns. Believers today live as citizens of that eternal kingdom.

In Christ, the scattered are gathered, the divided are united, and the lost are brought home. God "tabernacled" among us in the incarnation of Christ (*John 1:14*), He now dwells within His church by Holy Spirit (*2 Corinthians 6:16*), and one day He will dwell with His people forever in the New Creation (*Revelation 21:3*). The small return of exiles from Babylon to Israel in 538 BC was only the beginning, a signpost pointing to the New Covenant Age. Through Jesus, God has formed a holy nation drawn from every people and language - the living fulfillment of all the prophets' hope. And by grace, we are part of that people!

Prayerfully consider the following this week: In what ways does your life reflect the unity Christ created among God's people? Are there divisions, prejudices, or barriers you may need to surrender so that the Gospel's reconciling power can shine through you? How does remembering that you belong to the restored people of God shape your sense of identity and purpose? And how might your daily walk reveal to others the transforming presence of the Shepherd-King who gathers and sanctifies His people?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"...I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life,..."

Ezekiel 37:14

Weekly Affirmation:

**I BELONG IN
GOD'S FAMILY!**

MARCH 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Ezekiel
- Watch the Bible Project video on Ezekiel (*available on the website*).
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Listen to or sign a hymn or praise song as part of your daily devotion time this week.