

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What similarities are there between Israel and modern day Christianity?
2. What promises given to Israel are similar to the promises given to the Faithful today?
3. Explain some of the facts concerning Israel as a resurrected nation.
4. What is the importance of resurrection to the Christian, to the unbeliever?

SUMMARY:

The dry bones in the valley was a picture of the fallen and captive Israel, in this condition because of sin. They needed the refreshing that only God could give them, that is, to know that God still loved them. When they would repent and turn back to God, He would gather them together and restore them as a nation.

Two important facts came out of this prophecy. Never again would they have earthly kings such as the ones who led them on the path to ruin, but instead David (the Son of David, Jesus Christ) would some day be their Sole Ruler. Secondly, the promise of salvation would be administered to them and they would live in an eternal kingdom by the promise of an everlasting covenant.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 7, 2006

Second Quarter

RESURRECTION OF ISRAEL

LESSON TEXT: *Ezekiel 37:1-28*

LESSON SETTING: The twelfth year of Israel's captivity by the Chaldeans.

TIME: Approximately 587 B.C.

I. A DEAD NATION *Ezekiel 37:1-2*

- A. Dead in Sin (vs. 2) Proverbs 21:16; Matthew 8:22; 1 Timothy 5:6; Revelation 3:1

II. A FAITHFUL PROMISE *Ezekiel 37:3-9*

- A. Hear the Word (vs. 4) Deuteronomy 30:19
- B. Breath of Life (vs. 5) Genesis 2:7
- C. Spiritual Life (vs. 6) John 5:24; 11:25; 2 Timothy 1:10

III. A QUICKENING POWER *Ezekiel 37:10-14*

- A. The Quickening Power (vs. 10) John 5:21; 6:63; Ephesians 2:1
- B. A Spiritual Resurrection (vs. 10) Romans 8:11; Ephesians 2:6
- C. Restoration (vs. 12) Jeremiah 3:22; Micah 7:19

IV. A RESURRECTED NATION *Ezekiel 37:15-28*

- A. One Nation (vs. 17, 22) Jeremiah 50:4; Isaiah 52:8; John 10:16; Ephesians 2:14
- B. Promise of Salvation (vs. 23) Isaiah 25:9; Titus 2:11-12; 2 Peter 3:9
- C. An Eternal Kingdom (vs. 25) Luke 1:32-33; 2 Peter 1:11
- D. Everlasting Covenant (vs. 26) Isaiah 55:3; Hebrews 13:20

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD, I WILL CAUSE BREATH TO ENTER INTO YOU AND YE SHALL LIVE.*
Ezekiel 37:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Ezekiel 47:1-12

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 1:1-6;
John 4:1-15; 7:37-39;
Revelation 22:1-7

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: THE RIVER OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

The building referred to in our lesson is the temple of God. Since this was built on a hill we can understand that the water that proceeded from under the east threshold could not likely be real water. Again Solomon had built the brasen sea in which water could be placed for the temple usage. We must then see that this had a spiritual application and as such can be described as the river of Grace. As it proceeded it increased from a trickle, to a stream running ankle deep. Further on it was knee deep, then to the loins, then too deep to cross, except by swimming.

We can compare this to the time of the Patriarchs, then the giving of the law, in the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus, and finally the full dispensation of grace accomplished by Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

This has a personal application to each believer who recognizes the grace of God in a small measure and as faith increases this river of God increases more and more.

In reference to the age of grace many shall be "fishers" (partakers) along its banks. Many shall be converted and shall be healed. However, the areas around the river and the sea shall be marshes and salt water and shall not give life. May men forsake the marshes and salt water and partake of the river of God that alone can give life.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Though sin brings death, the gospel of Jesus Christ brings life.

GOLDEN TEXT: *EVERY THING SHALL LIVE WHITHER THE RIVER COMETH.*

Ezekiel 47:9

The vision of the river that emanated from the temple is a beautiful picture of the grace and salvation provided by God, a river that shall bring healing and life to everything it touches.

This way of life had its beginning with the Patriarchs who believed in the promises of a coming Redeemer and thus lived in obedience to God and His Word. Few, however had this kind of faith and knew of the healing power and deliverance from sin provided by God.

As time passed, the fullness of the plan of the gospel was revealed through Jesus Christ and the small stream became a river and then a sea. Multitudes of people have been able to partake of the precious plan of salvation and have found life and that glorious joy of the spiritual life.

Sad to say, miry places and marshes exist along this life-giving stream and great multitudes of people are satisfied to come only this close to the river of life and perish in their shallow religions and worshipping as depicted by these miry places. There is only one way and that is the river of life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 8 - 14

M. Wells of Salvation. Isaiah 12:1-6

T. Invitation to the Thirsty. Isaiah 55:1-5

W. Promise to the Thirsty. Isaiah 65:8-16

T. *The River of God. Ezekiel 47:1-12

F. The Promised Outpouring. Joel 2:28-32

S. Everlasting Life Provided. John 4:5-15

S. Flowing from the Throne. Revelation 22:1-7