

Ezekiel 37:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Analysis

God interprets the vision: 'Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.' The 'graves' metaphorically represent Babylonian exile—the nation buried among Gentiles, cut off from land and temple. God promises to resurrect them from this living death, bringing them back to their homeland. The phrase 'my people' reaffirms covenant relationship despite judgment and exile. The threefold action—'open your graves,' 'cause you to come up,' 'bring you into the land'—emphasizes God's comprehensive, sovereign restoration. While this primarily prophesies the historical return from exile (beginning 538 BC), it also typologically points to spiritual resurrection (Ephesians 2:5-6) and physical resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:16, Revelation 20:4-6).

Historical Context

The exiles' own words (37:11) reveal their despair: they felt dead, cut off, hopeless. God's response addresses both emotional/spiritual death and national extinction. The promise had initial fulfillment when Cyrus decreed Jewish return (538 BC, Ezra 1), with waves of returnees under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The regathering exceeded expectations—despite predictions of permanent dispersion,

the nation reconstituted in the land, rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple, and renewed covenant life. Yet fuller eschatological fulfillment awaits—many see national Israel's modern return (post-1948) as partial fulfillment, while ultimate resurrection life comes through Christ (Romans 11:15, 25-27). The church experiences resurrection life now (Colossians 3:1-4) and awaits bodily resurrection at Christ's return.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When have you felt buried in circumstances, and how did God resurrect hope and life?
2. How does this promise of resurrection from graves encourage faith in God's power to restore what seems permanently lost?

Interlinear Text

לִּכְן H3651	הִנְבִּי א H5012	אָמַר H559	אֵלֶיהָ ׀ H413	כֹּה H3541	אָמַר H559	אֲדֹנָי י H136	יְהוָה H3069
	Therefore prophesy	and say			and say	the Lord	GOD
הִנֵּה H2009	אֲנִי י H589	פֶּתִי ׀ H6605	אֶת H853	מִקְבְּרוֹתֶיךָ ׀ H6913	וְהֵעֲלִיתִי י H5927		
	I will open			out of your graves	and cause you to come up		
אֶתְּךָ ׀ H853	מִקְבְּרוֹתֶיךָ ׀ H6913	עַמִּי י H5971	וְהֵבֵאתִי י H935	אֶתְּךָ ׀ H853	אֶל H413		
	out of your graves	Behold O my people	and bring				
אֲדָמָה H127	יִשְׂרָאֵל: H3478						
you into the land	of Israel						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:19 (Parallel theme): Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Hosea 13:14 (Parallel theme): I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Isaiah 66:14 (References Lord): And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (References God): For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Revelation 20:13 (Parallel theme): And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Ezekiel 36:24 (Parallel theme): For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Ezekiel 37:25 (Parallel theme): And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Hosea 6:2 (Parallel theme): After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (References God): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Ezekiel 37:21 (References God): And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: