

# Ezekiel 37:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee,  
saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

## Analysis

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This verse points toward God's gracious purposes of restoration despite Israel's persistent unfaithfulness. The Reformed emphasis on sovereign grace shines through—restoration doesn't depend on Israel's merit or ability but on God's covenant faithfulness and irrevocable purposes (Romans 11:29). This anticipates new covenant promises where God gives a new heart and His Spirit to enable obedience (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The pattern of judgment followed by grace-based restoration prefigures the gospel: humanity deserves condemnation but receives mercy through Christ's atoning work. God's restoration demonstrates His glory by showing grace triumphs over judgment.

## Historical Context

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This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָאֲשֶׁר	יֵאמְרוּ	אֵל יִכְ	בְּנֵי י	עַמְּךָ	יֵאמְרוּ
H834	shall speak	H413	And when the children	of thy people	shall speak
	H559		H1121	H5971	H559
הֲלוֹא	תִּגַּד יְד	לִי נֹ	מָה	אֵל לָה	לָהּ:
H3808	Wilt thou not shew	H0	H4100	H428	H0
	H5046				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 24:19** (Parallel theme): And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

**Ezekiel 12:9** (Parallel theme): Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou?

**Ezekiel 20:49** (Parallel theme): Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?

**Ezekiel 17:12** (Parallel theme): Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;

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