

Ezekiel 37:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

Analysis

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

אָנָּה	יְהוָה	בְּנֵה	אָנָּה	מִצְבָּה	רְאֵבָה	אָמַר	אָדָּן	אָדָּן	אָנָּה	יְהוָה	בְּנֵה	אָנָּה	יְהוָה	בְּנֵה	
Say	H413	H3541	unto them	Thus saith	the Lord	GOD	H2009	H589							
H1696				H559	H136	H3069									
Behold	I will take	H853	stick	of Joseph	Ash	in mine hand	Ephraim								
	H3947		H6086	H3130	H834	H3027	H669								
and the tribes	of Israel	H7626	his fellows	and will put	H853	H5921	H854	אֶת	עַל	אֹתָם	מִגְתָּהִי	שְׁבָא	לִשְׁבָט	וְ	
	H3478		H2270	H5414											
stick	of Judah	H6086	and make	stick	and they shall be one	H1961		וְ	עַל	לְעַזְבֵּתִים	יְהוָה	הַ	לְעַזְבֵּת	וְ	
	H3063		H6213	H6086											
and they shall be one	in mine hand	H259	H3027					וְ	אַתָּה	וְ	אַתָּה	וְ	בְּנֵה	וְ	

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 10:6 (References God): And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.