

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

אֲנִי יְהוָה אֲדֹנָי	אָמַר	כֹּה אֵלֶיָּהֶם יֵבֶר				
and I	the Lord	say	unto them	Thus	saith	the Lord
H1961	H136	H1696	H559	H559	H559	H136
אֶפְרַיִם בְּיָדִי	אֲשֶׁר רַ	יוֹסֵף	לֵעַץ	אֶת	לֶקֶחַ	
of Ephraim	in mine hand	of Joseph	stick	Behold I will take		
H669	H3027	H3130	H6086	H853	H3947	
אֶת עַל יוֹ	אוֹתָם	וְנָתַתִּי	חֵבֶר וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְשִׁבְטֵי	
and they shall be one	and will put	his fellows	of Israel	and the tribes		
H259	H5414	H2270	H3478	H7626		
וְהָיָה	אֶחָד	לָעֵץ	וַעֲשִׂיתֶם	יְהוּדָה	לֵעַץ	
and they shall be one	and they shall be one	stick	and make	of Judah	stick	
H1961	H259	H6086	H6213	H3063	H6086	
אֶחָד	בְּיָדִי					
and they shall be one	in mine hand					
H259	H3027					

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.