

## Reading Guide for Ezekiel 37:15-28

Continuing the theme of restoration that began in chapter 33, this unit addresses God's intention to gather all the dispersed people of Israel and unite them into a single kingdom under one king. The message is conveyed through a sign-act, where Ezekiel is commanded to take two sticks labeled "Joseph" (representing the northern kingdom of Israel) and "Judah" (representing the southern kingdom).

The meaning of the sign-act is unfolded first metaphorically (v. 19), then in detailed future promises (vv. 20-28). The promises of reunification include gathering the people back to the land, reinstatement of the monarchy, and cleansing them of their impurity (vv. 20-24a). Also important to Israel's future relationship with the Lord is covenant obedience leading Him to once again dwell among His people forever (vv. 24b-28).

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### MESSAGE-RECEPTION FORMULA (37:15)

#### I. SIGN-ACT: JOINING TWO STICKS (37:16-17)

#### II. INTERPRETATION OF THE SIGN-ACT (37:18-19)

##### A. Command to Speak When Prompted by the People's Inquiry (37:18-19a)

##### B. Metaphorical Interpretation of the Sign-Act

Quotation Formula (v. 19b)

Announcement of Divine Activity (v. 19cd)

#### III. CONTINUED INTERPRETATION, WITH ADDITIONAL DETAIL AND PROMISES OF FUTURE SALVATION (37:20-24a)

##### A. Command to Speak to People Regarding the Sign-Act (37:20-21a)

##### B. Interpretation of the Sign-Act

Quotation Formula (v. 21b)

Announcement of Divine Activity (vv. 21c-24a)

*The People will be Gathered and Return to the Land (v. 21c)*

*They will be United Under One King (v. 22)*

*They will be Cleansed and No Longer Defiled (vv. 23ab)*

*The Covenant will be Restored (v. 23c)*

*They will be Under One King, Namely David (v. 24a)*

#### IV. CONTINUED PROMISES OF FUTURE SALVATION (37:24b-28)

*They will be Obedient to the Covenant (v. 24b)*

*They will Dwell in the Land Eternally (v. 25a)*

*David will Rule Eternally (v. 25b)*

*God will Make an Everlasting Covenant (v. 26a)*

*God will Dwell with Them Eternally (vv. 26b-27a)*

*The Covenant will be Restored (v. 27b)*

*Recognition Formula (v. 28)*