

The Everlasting Covenant

Ezekiel 37

Introduction:

Ezekiel had been given a divine vision by the Lord of dry bones in a valley. The bones represented the house of Israel who had sinned against God and had apparently lost all hope (Ezek. 7:5-8; 23:46-47). Many had forgotten God's covenant made with Abraham yet the Lord remembered. If only the people would look to God's promises they would find that they had the opportunity to be a part of God's eternal kingdom that would be governed by an everlasting covenant. People today ought to consider the eternal kingdom of God and its eternal covenant that they may have hope and motivation to live godly in this wicked world.

I. What is a Covenant?

- A. "An arrangement between two parties" (Liddell and Scott 187).
- B. "A binding agreement made by two or more persons or parties; compact, law" (AHD 334).
- C. God's covenants with man are equivalent to laws (Ps. 111:9; Deut. 29:9; Heb. 8:6 etc.).

II. The Everlasting Covenant (Ezek. 37:26-28):

- A. Jeremiah termed it the "new covenant" (Jer. 31:31ff).
- B. The author of Hebrews terms this new covenant "*better*" than the old due to it making man holy, sanctified, and perfect (see Heb. 8:6ff / 7:18-19).
- C. The author of Hebrews identifies the "everlasting covenant" as equated with the blood of Christ (Heb. 13:20-21).

III. God's everlasting "tabernacle" (kingdom / church) (Ezek. 37:26-28):

- A. God's eternal kingdom (Eph. 2:19-22).
- B. The Bible connects the **kingdom** of God with the **church** (I Thess. 2:12 (comp. with II Thess. 2:13-14; Eph. 4:1; Acts 2:38-39; **Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 12:22-28**).

Conclusion:

Man has been created and designed by God to live for eternity. Though our earthly bodies die our souls will continue in life. God has prepared an eternal kingdom that is governed by an eternal covenant for those who are obedient to Him. Will you not seek out God's precious promises?