

“Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!”  
rr chap. 10 ¶13-17, boxes 10B and 10C

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min. or less) rr  
chap. 2 ¶10-18

Paragraph 13

(Ezra 1:1-4) In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that Jehovah's word spoken by Jeremiah would be fulfilled, Jehovah stirred the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his kingdom, which he also put in writing, saying: 2 “This is what King Cyrus of Persia says, ‘Jehovah the God of the heavens has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has commissioned me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—he is the true God—whose house was in Jerusalem. 4 Anyone who is residing as a foreigner, wherever he may be, let him be helped by his neighbors by their giving him silver and gold, goods and livestock, along with the voluntary offering for the house of the true God, which was in Jerusalem.’”

(Ezra 2:64, 65) The total number of the entire congregation was 42,360, 65 apart from their male and female slaves, who were 7,337; they also had 200 male and female singers.

(Ezekiel 37:14) ‘I will put my spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will settle you on your land; and you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done it,’ declares Jehovah.”

(Ezra 8:1-20) Now these were the heads of their paternal houses and the genealogical enrollment of those who went up with me out of Babylon during the reign of King Ar·ta·xer·xes: 2 of the sons of Phin·e·has, Ger·shom; of the sons of Ith·a·mar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hat·tush; 3 of the sons of Shec·a·ni'ah, of the sons of Pa·rosh, Zech·a·ri'ah, and with him there was an enrollment of 150 males; 4 of the

sons of Pa'hath-mo'ab, El'ie·ho·e·nai the son of Zer·a·hi'ah, and with him 200 males; 5 of the sons of Zat'tu, Shec·a·ni'ah the son of Ja·ha·zi'el, and with him 300 males; 6 of the sons of A'din, E'bed the son of Jon'a·than, and with him 50 males; 7 of the sons of E'lam, Je·sha'iah the son of Ath·a·li'ah, and with him 70 males; 8 of the sons of Sheph·a·ti'ah, Zeb·a·di'ah the son of Mi'cha·el, and with him 80 males; 9 of the sons of Jo'ab, O·ba·di'ah the son of Je·hi'el, and with him 218 males; 10 of the sons of Ba'ni, She·lo'mith the son of Jo·si·phi'ah, and with him 160 males; 11 of the sons of Be'bai, Zech·a·ri'ah the son of Be'bai, and with him 28 males; 12 of the sons of Az'gad, Jo·ha·nan the son of Hak'ka·tan, and with him 110 males; 13 of the sons of Ad·o·ni'kam, those who were the last, and these were their names: E·liph'e·let, Je·i'el, and She·mai'ah, and with them 60 males; 14 and of the sons of Big'vai, U'thai and Zab'bud, and with them 70 males. 15 I assembled them at the river that comes to A·ha·va, and we camped there for three days. But when I examined the people and the priests, I did not find any of the Levites there. 16 So I sent for E·li·e·zer, Ar'i·el, She·mai'ah, El·na'than, Ja·rib, El·na'than, Nathan, Zech·a·ri'ah, and Me·shul'lam, who were leading men, and for Joi'a·rib and El·na'than, who were instructors. 17 Then I gave them a command concerning Id'do the leader in the place called Ca·si·phi'a. I told them to tell Id'do and his brothers, the temple servants who were in Ca·si·phi'a, to bring to us ministers for the house of our God. 18 Since the good hand of our God was upon us, they brought a discreet man from the sons of Mah'li the grandson of Le'vi the son of Israel, namely, She·re·bi'ah, and his sons and his brothers, 18 men; 19 and Hash·a·bi'ah, and with him Je·sha'iah from the Me·rar'ites, his brothers and their sons, 20 men. 20 And there were 220 of the temple servants, whom David and the princes gave to the service of the Levites, all of whom had been designated by name.

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(Ezekiel 37:10) So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.

(1 Chronicles 9:3) And some of the descendants of Judah, of Benjamin, of E'phra·im, and of Ma·nas'seh settled in Jerusalem:

(Ezra 6:17) And they presented for the inauguration of this house of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel.

(Jeremiah 33:7) And I will bring back the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel, and I will build them up as I did at the start.

(Ezekiel 36:10) I will multiply your people—the whole house of Israel, all of it—and the cities will be inhabited and the ruins will be rebuilt.

#### Paragraph 14

(Ezekiel 37:24) ““My servant David will be their king, and they will all have one shepherd. They will walk in my judicial decisions and carefully observe my statutes.

(Isaiah 66:8) Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Will a land be brought to birth in one day? Or will a nation be born all at once? Yet, as soon as Zion went into labor, she gave birth to her sons.

#### Paragraph 15

(Zechariah 8:20-23) “This is what Jehovah of armies says, ‘It will yet come to pass that peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will come; 21 and the inhabitants of one city will go to those of another and say: “Let us earnestly go to beg for the favor of Jehovah and to seek Jehovah of armies. I am also going.” 22 And many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek Jehovah of armies in Jerusalem and to beg for the favor of Jehovah.’ 23 “This is what

Jehovah of armies says, ‘In those days ten men out of all the languages of the nations will take hold, yes, they will take firm hold of the robe of a Jew, saying: “We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.”’”

#### Paragraph 16

(Ezekiel 37:10) So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it.

(Ezekiel 37:24) ““My servant David will be their king, and they will all have one shepherd. They will walk in my judicial decisions and carefully observe my statutes.

(Philippians 2:25) But for now I consider it necessary to send to you E·paph·ro·di'tus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your envoy and personal servant for my need,

(1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17) because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet, and those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first. 17 Afterward we the living who are surviving will, together with them, be caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

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## TEACHING BOX 10B

“Dry Bones” and “Two Witnesses”—How Do They Relate?

THE year 1919 saw the fulfillment of two related prophecies: one regarding “dry bones,” the other about “two witnesses.” The vision of “dry bones” foretells a very long period (which turned out to be many centuries) that ends with the coming to life of a large group of God’s people. (Ezek. 37:2-4; Rev. 11:1-3, 7-13) The prophecy about the “two witnesses” describes a short period (fulfilled from late 1914 to early 1919) that ends with the coming to life of a small group of God’s servants. Both prophecies depicted a symbolic resurrection, and both prophecies saw a modern-day fulfillment in 1919 when Jehovah caused his anointed servants “to stand on their feet,” leave their captivity to Babylon the Great, and be gathered in the restored congregation.—Ezek. 37:10.

Note, though, that the fulfillment of these two prophecies differs in an important way. The prophecy of the “dry bones” foretells the coming to life of all members of the anointed remnant. However, the prophecy of the “two witnesses” foretells the coming to life of some members of God’s anointed remnant—those who were taking the lead in the organization and who were appointed as “the faithful and discreet slave.”—Matt. 24:45; Rev. 11:6.

“The Valley Plain . . . Full of Bones”—Ezek. 37:1

AFTER 100 C.E.

From the second century C.E. onward when the anointed Christian congregation was killed symbolically, “the valley plain” was filled with “bones”

EARLY 1919

1919: The “dry bones” came to life when Jehovah caused all anointed ones to leave Babylon the Great and be gathered in the restored congregation

“Two Witnesses”—Rev. 11:3

LATE 1914

preaching “in sackcloth”

1914: The “two witnesses” preached “in sackcloth” for three and a half years. At the end of that period, they were symbolically killed

symbolic death

EARLY 1919

1919: The “two witnesses” came to life when a small group of anointed brothers who were taking the lead in the organization were appointed to serve as “the faithful and discreet slave”

- (Ezekiel 37:2-4) He had me pass all around them, and I saw that there were very many bones lying in the valley plain, and they were very dry. 3 He asked me: “Son of man, can these bones come to life?” To that I said: “Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the one who knows.” 4 So he said to me: “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah:
- (Revelation 11:1-3) And a reed like a rod was given to me as he said: “Get up and measure the temple sanctuary of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. 2 But as for the courtyard that is outside the temple sanctuary, leave it out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months. 3 I will

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cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.”

- (Revelation 11:7-13) When they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will wage war with them and conquer them and kill them. 8 And their corpses will be on the main street of the great city that is in a spiritual sense called Sod'om and Egypt, where their Lord was also executed on the stake. 9 And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not allow their corpses to be laid in a tomb. 10 And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and celebrate, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. 11 After the three and a half days, spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven say to them: “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and 7,000 persons were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven.
- (Ezekiel 37:10) So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.
- (Matthew 24:45) “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time?”

- (Revelation 11:6) These have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish.
- (Ezekiel 37:1) The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and by his spirit Jehovah took me and set me down in the middle of the valley plain, and it was full of bones.
- (Revelation 11:3) I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy for 1,260 days dressed in sackcloth.”

### TEACHING BOX 10C

#### Help to Get Back on Our Feet

WE CAN be strengthened by reflecting on the lesson from this impressive vision recorded at Ezekiel 37:1-14, a lesson that we can apply to our personal circumstances. What is it?

At times, we may feel so overwhelmed by pressures and trials in our life that we are worn out, and we struggle to go on. However, at such moments, we may be fortified if we reflect on the vivid description in Ezekiel's restoration vision. Why? We can learn from this prophecy that a God who has the power to breathe life into dead bones can surely give us the strength we need to overcome obstacles—even those that, humanly speaking, are insurmountable.—Read Psalm 18:29; Phil. 4:13.

We may be reminded that many centuries before Ezekiel's day, the prophet Moses stated that Jehovah has not only the power but also the desire to use his strength in behalf of his people. Moses wrote: “God is a refuge from

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ancient times, his everlasting arms are beneath you.” (Deut. 33:27) Yes, we can be sure that if we turn to our God in times of distress, Jehovah will put his caring arms beneath us, gently lift us up, and help us to get back on our feet.—Ezek. 37:10.

- (Ezekiel 37:1-14) The hand of Jehovah was upon me, and by his spirit Jehovah took me and set me down in the middle of the valley plain, and it was full of bones. 2 He had me pass all around them, and I saw that there were very many bones lying in the valley plain, and they were very dry. 3 He asked me: “Son of man, can these bones come to life?” To that I said: “Sovereign Lord Jehovah, you are the one who knows.” 4 So he said to me: “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘You dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah: 5 “This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says to these bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will put sinews and flesh on you, and I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will come to life; and you will have to know that I am Jehovah.””’ 7 Then I prophesied just as I had been commanded. As soon as I prophesied, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones began to come together, bone to bone. 8 Then I saw sinews and flesh come on them, and skin covered over them. But there was still no breath in them. 9 He then said to me: “Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these people who were killed, so that they may come to life.””’ 10 So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large

army. 11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Here they are saying, ‘Our bones are dry, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ 12 So prophecy and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: “I will open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people, and bring you to the land of Israel. 13 And you will have to know that I am Jehovah when I open your graves and when I raise you up out of your graves, O my people.”’ 14 ‘I will put my spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will settle you on your land; and you will have to know that I myself, Jehovah, have spoken and I have done it,’ declares Jehovah.”

- (Psalm 18:29) With your help I can charge against a marauder band; By God’s power I can scale a wall.
- (Philippians 4:13) For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power.
- (Deuteronomy 33:27) God is a refuge from ancient times, His everlasting arms are beneath you. And he will drive away the enemy from before you, And he will say, ‘Annihilate them!’
- (Ezekiel 37:10) So I prophesied just as he commanded me, and breath came into them, and they began to live and to stand on their feet, an extremely large army.