

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

DISCOVERING WHO JESUS IS

FORETOLD

THROUGH THE MAJOR PROPHETS

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

The Messiah Who Brings
Abundant Life

Ezekiel 37

Introduction

- God brings life to His people.
- Ezekiel's vision of a valley of dry bones reveals a time when God's Spirit will rush on His people, restoring their life and reviving their hearts.
- Under God's rule, His people will worship in Spirit and in truth, living life in the power of the Spirit and in the presence of Christ.

Jesus fills us with joy even when
we feel empty, discouraged,
and burdened

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Joy When Discouraged

- God carries Ezekiel to the middle of a valley to observe a gruesome scene: the unburied, skeletal remains of a slaughtered army (verse 1).
- The prophet witnesses the remains of death, destruction, and human carnage on a mass scale.
- Ezekiel can't avoid what he is about to see and experience.

Joy When Discouraged

- God walks the prophet right through the midst of this great host of dry bones, marking a massive slaughter occurring long ago as it takes an extended time period to dry out bones (verse 2).
- As an image of the nation of Israel, God indicates the consequences for Israel's rebellion were affirmed long ago and not merely the consequence of this most recent period of idolatry and unfaithfulness.

Joy When Discouraged

- God begins to reveal His plan to bring life back and restore a hopeless people (verse 3).
- God outlines a plan for reviving the bones in the valley. God's final plan for this valley of dry bones.
- It is life empowered by the Spirit as indicated by God's causing "breath" to move in them once again (verse 4).

Joy When Discouraged

- Like the creation accounts, God enacts a two-stage process involving formation and filling, emphasizing the central role of the Spirit in bringing new life to the restored people (verses 6–7).
- As a vessel for God's purposes, Ezekiel obeys the divine command to prophesy life and Spirit to the bones of the dead (verse 7). In an instant, divinely ordered life rushes on the scene, bringing an earthquake and rattling the dead bones back together (verse 8).

Joy When Discouraged

- Even after reassembly, verse 9 notes the bodies are still lifeless, breathless corpses.
- God commands Ezekiel to again prophesy so that divine breath may bring new life, a command that Ezekiel promptly obeys immediately (verses 9–10).
- The restoration of the bones serves as a guarantee of all this prophetic vision symbolizes, namely, the ultimate restoration of Israel as a nation (verse 11–12).

Joy When Discouraged

- God's Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4).
- In fulfillment of Old Testament witnesses, Jesus completed His work on earth, ascended to heaven, and poured out His Spirit on His children (Acts 2:33).
- Even so, the Spirit continues to empower believers to live by grace through faith. As He gives us the Spirit, we receive life and freedom (Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 6:8).

Jesus unites His people to
live at peace and proclaim
His glory and grace

Ezekiel 37:15-23

Jesus Unites His People

- God grants a snapshot of a total restoration and reunification of Israel. God commands Ezekiel to grab two separate sticks to communicate (verse 15).
- One represented the kingdom of Judah, and the other the Northern Kingdom that was often addressed in Old Testament prophecy as Ephraim (Isaiah 7:17; 9:21; 11:13; Hosea 5:5, 12–14; Zechariah 10:6).
- In this way, Ezekiel addresses all of Israel.

Jesus Unites His People

- Ezekiel writes the word Israel on both pieces indicating God's design for reuniting the people into one chosen family bearing witness of God's goodness to the world.
- After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom split between his sons, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and existed this way until the Northern Kingdom was wiped out by the Assyrians for their sinful rebellion against God (1 Kings 11; 15; 17).

Jesus Unites His People

- After writing the names on the sticks, God commands Ezekiel to hold them together in one hand, symbolizing God's reunification of the separate Northern and Southern kingdoms under God's sovereign rule (verse 17, 19).
- In joining the two sticks as one in his hand, Ezekiel symbolized all of Israel's return from exile (verse 21) and complete reunification (verse 22).

Jesus Unites His People

- Even today, we receive peace through the power of the Spirit and the bonds of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:3–6).
- Through our union with Christ, we are united together with other Christians regardless of tongue, tribe, or nation (Ephesians 4:11–21).
- As we live at peace, we proclaim God's goodness through our life and message.

Jesus enlivens our hearts to
genuinely worship God in
spirit and truth

Ezekiel 37:24-28

Jesus Enlivens Our Hearts

- God determines for His people to live in unity and peace, and Ezekiel proclaims a message of reconciliation founded upon not only a shared covenant unity but also a shared kingly ruler.
- Ezekiel points to a day when the new and better David will come to rule over the people as a kind, Good Shepherd (verse 24).

Jesus Enlivens Our Hearts

- God reveals a wonderful future for His people.
- God reveals a day of cleansing from all idolatry (verse 23) overseen by the righteous rule through the Davidic king (verse 24a).
- God plans a day when his people live in perfect obedience (verse 24b) and in total security in God's land (verse 25).

Jesus Enlivens Our Hearts

- Through his everlasting covenant of peace (verse 26a), God offers a path to rich life and lasting growth (verse 26b).
- The people will experience the permanent presence of God in the midst of his people (verse 27) and the perfection of covenant relationship between God and people.

Jesus Enlivens Our Hearts

- God offers His people perpetual joy spanning generations (verse 25). The social instability known by the exiles is replaced by the rule of the new and better David, Jesus Christ.
- God would dwell with His people beginning with Immanuel, “God with us” (verse 26). The shared relationship between God and His chosen people brings renewed purpose and surety witnessed by all other nations (verse 28).

Jesus Enlivens Our Hearts

- Jesus reveals a day when all peoples will worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:24).
- In commissioning His disciples to reach the world with the Gospel, Jesus affirms His everlasting presence regardless of circumstances (Matthew 28:20).
- As we go in peace and proclaim a Gospel of reconciliation, Jesus goes with us and guides us each step of the way (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Biblical Archaeology

INTERNATIONAL

Biblical Archaeology's Top 10 Discoveries of 2018



Middle East

A glimpse at the important excavation work revealed this year.

GORDON GOVIER | **DECEMBER 27, 2018 7:00 AM**



“Yerusalayim” Inscription

Oldest-ever inscription of ‘Jerusalem’ found on pillar

“My heart started to pound, and I was sure everyone could hear it. My hands were trembling so badly I couldn’t properly take a picture,” said Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Danit Levi.



The oldest discovered inscription of “Jerusalem” found to date, unveiled in October 2018. Credit: Danit Levi, Israel Antiquities Authority.

Ninevah

ISIS ACCIDENTALLY CORROBORATES THE BIBLE

March 19, 2018 — 2 Comments



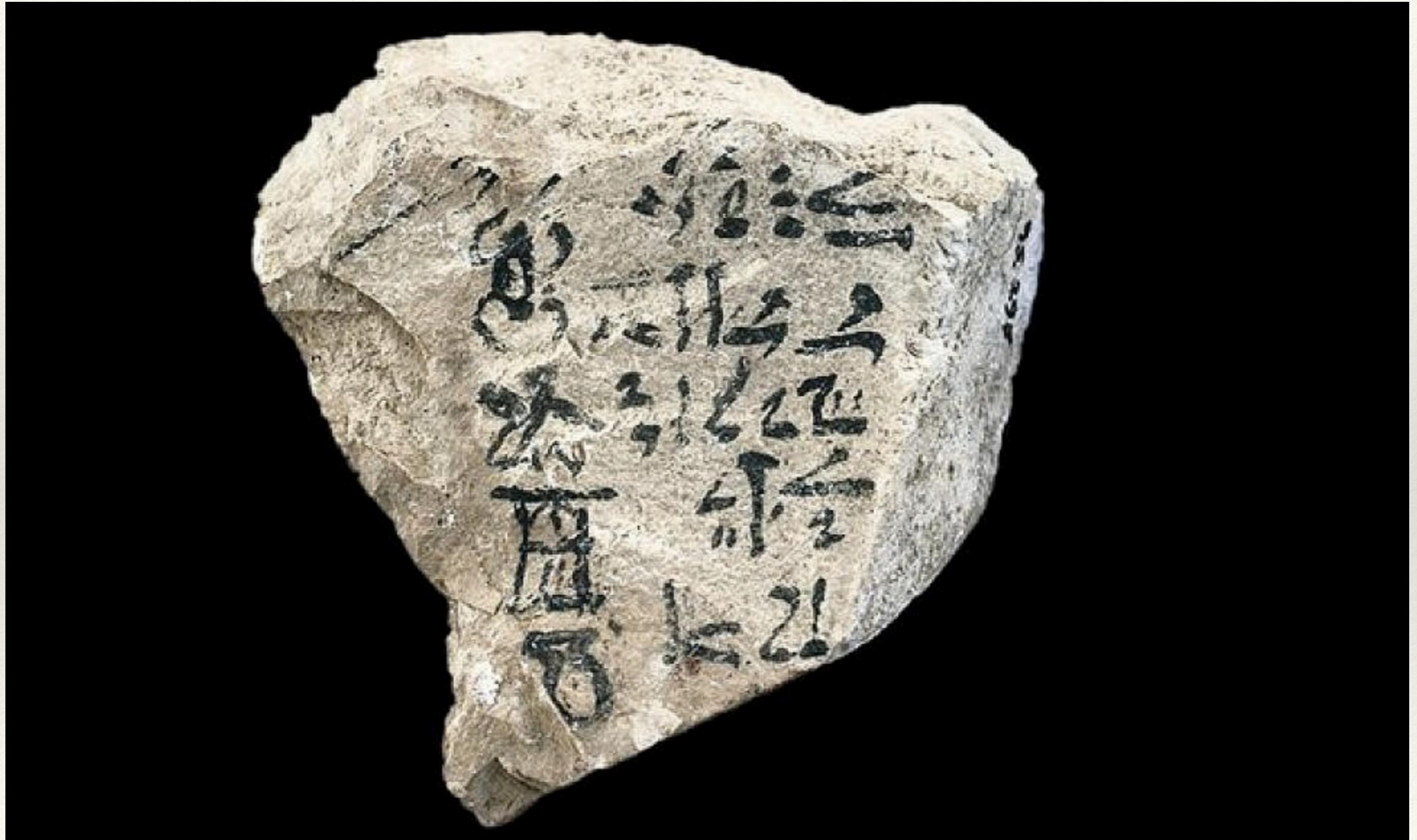
Ninevah - Mosul

- When the ISIS terrorists destroyed numerous biblical archaeological sites in Iran, they unearthed evidence that supports the Old Testament accounts.
- They demolished the tomb of Jonah and dug tunnels looking for treasure and artifacts they could sell.
- When archaeologists returned, the digging revealed an untouched Assyrian palace in the city of Nineveh.

Ninevah - Mosul

- According to an article in Iraq magazine, they found inscriptions that match the biblical order:
 - Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1)
 - Sennacherib (2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah 36-37)
 - Esarhaddon (2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38)
 - Ashurbanipal (Ezra 4:10)

Semitic Abecedary



Semitic Abecedary

- This inscribed piece of limestone discovered in a tomb along the west bank of the Nile confirms a question liberals have raised about Moses.
- The excavated tomb dates back to 1450 B.C., which is the time of Moses. It verifies that writing was common.
- Exodus 24:4 - “Moses wrote down everything the Lord had said.” It shows he wasn’t the only one writing in a Semitic script in Egypt at that time.

Beka Weight



Beka Weight

- Very careful shifting helped discover some significant finds: a *beka* weight.
- Exodus 38:26 explains that the *beka* was used to measure the half shekel temple tax due from each person.
- This tiny weight (0.2 ounces) was inscribed with the Hebrew letters spelling *beka* and discovered near Robinson's arch (southwest corner - Temple Mount).
- It was used to weigh the temple tax.



ISRAEL • מדינת ישראל

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מדינת ישראל

חמש שקלים
חמש שקלים
NEW SHEQALIM

خمسة شقالات

Clay Seal



Clay Seal

- A very rare seal impression from 2,700 years ago was discovered in Jerusalem's Western Wall Plaza and unveiled to the public Monday. It was presented to the mayor of Jerusalem.
- It bears the inscription: "Belonging to the governor of the city."
- It supports the biblical record of the existence of a governor of the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago.

Clay Seal

- The Bible actually mentions the names of a few of the king-appointed governors of Jerusalem:
 - Joshua is mentioned as governor in 2 Kings
 - Masseiah is listed as governor in 2 Chronicles



Isaiah the Prophet?



Isaiah bulla, a 2,700-year-old clay seal impression which may have belonged to the biblical prophet Isaiah. (Ouria Tadmor/© Eilat Mazar)

Isaiah the Prophet?

- This seal impression appears to say “Isaiah the prophet” but a letter is missing at the end.
- The seal is from a small piece of clay from that time period.
- It was found at the Temple Mount near another seal that says “of King Hezekiah of Judah.” King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah are mentioned together 17 times.

Pontius Pilate

Pontius Pilate's Name Is Found on 2,000-Year-Old Ring



The ring bearing the name of Pontius Pilate was discovered in the late 1960s, one of thousands of artifacts found in the excavation of Herodium, an ancient fortress and palace south of Bethlehem, in the West Bank. Bernat Armangue/Associated Press

Pontius Pilate

- The name “Pontius Pilate” has turned up before in the archaeological record.
- The first time his name and title were found engraved in a stone discovered at Caesarea Maritima.
- This ring was found at Herodium, a desert palace outside of Bethlehem.
- The ring was not fancy enough to have been worn by Pilate, so it was used for official communications.

GENESIS 19

December 21, 2018

IT GO BOOM:

Sodom,
Pontius Pilate, and
Archaeology



BREAKPOINT

DEATH BY DEAD SEA / THEN THE LORD RAINED DOWN BURNING SULFUR OUT OF THE HEAVENS

Evidence of Sodom? Meteor blast cause of biblical destruction, say scientists

Multi-disciplinary team of scientists uses 3,700-year-old archaeological evidence from Jordan's Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project to understand end to civilization near Dead Sea

By [AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN](#) | 22 November 2018, 4:08 pm | 12



3,307
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GENESIS 19

- Archaeologist Dr. Stephen Collins says that there was a violent conflagration that ended occupation.
- There is “melted pottery, scorched foundation stones, and several feet of ash and destruction debris churned into a dark gray matrix as if in a Cuisinart.”
- He and another author in a joint paper conclude that all of this provides “signs of a highly destructive concussive and thermal event that one might expect from what is described in Genesis 19.”

1 KINGS 10

October 30, 2017

DISCOVERING NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Another Find of Biblical Proportions



BREAKPOINT

▶ 00:00

00:00



1 KINGS 10

- Norma Franklin (University of Haifa) and Jennie Ebeling (University of Evansville) led excavation in the Jezreel Valley - Meggido.
- They found several wine presses and olive presses, including the largest ancient winepress ever found.
- According to *Biblical Archaeology Review*, they found Naboth's vineyard by using the details in 1 Kings 21 that provides an account of the plot by Jezebel to kill Naboth when King Ahab coveted his vineyard.

2 KINGS 10

October 13, 2016



▶ 00:00

00:00 🔊

2 KINGS 10

- Archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority digging at the biblical city of Tel Lachich discovered an ancient toilet.
- King Hezekiah is commended because he “removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones, and cut down the Asherah poles.”
- It goes on to explain that he “demolished the pillar of Baal, and destroyed the temple of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.”