

“Dimming the Lights”

Daniel 9:25-27; Ezekiel 37:1-14, 21-28

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- “Dimming the Lights” at Intermission
- God’s 490-year plan -- the Six objectives
- Review of the breakdown of the 490-Year Plan
 - Daniel 9:25-27-- *“Know therefore and understand, that from the beginning of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The streets shall be built again and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”*
- We are living right now during the “intermission” between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel 9
 - Messiah has been cut off.
 - The city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans
 - The desolation and destruction of the land of Israel is ongoing.
- God is preparing the Jewish people for the final week through the ministry of Christians and the church
- God’s plan for the intermission for Jewish people
 - To let them feel forsaken by God, to bring them to the end of themselves, so that they embrace Jesus Christ as their Messiah at His second coming
 - To use us to reach out to our Jewish friends and share with them the gospel so that they might be saved.
 - To make Jews envious, in a good sense, of what we have in Christ, and thus be drawn towards Him.
- Signs that we are nearing “the end” of the intermission period

Dimming the Lights

A. Regathering of the Jews (General)

1. **Jews driven from the land during “Intermission”**
2. **God’s promises to restore Israel and the Jews to their land**
 - a. God’s promise to scatter them among the nations for their failure to keep the covenant—
 - Deuteronomy 29:28-- *“And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.”*
 - b. God promises to regather them to the land.
 - Deuteronomy 30:2-5a-- *“return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.”*
3. **Previous Scattering and Restoration during Daniel’s time**
4. **Dual fulfillment of prophecy**

B. Regathering of the Jews (Specific)--“Dry Bones”

- Ezekiel 37:1-14-- *“The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were dry. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O Lord God, You know.’ Again He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, “O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.’””*

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin covered them over, but there was no breath in them. Also He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, “Thus says the LORD God: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!” Therefore prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the LORD God: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put my Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,’ says the LORD.””

1. God is the one who will regather the scattered and form them into a nation.

- Deuteronomy 30:4-- *“If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.”*
- Jeremiah 32:37-- *“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.”*
- Ezekiel 20:41-- *“I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles”*
- Ezekiel 34:13-- *“And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land.”*

2. Dual-phase Regathering

a. The “Body-building” Stage

- Ezekiel 37: 7-8-- *“So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin covered them over, but there was no breath in them.”*
- 1) Historical Fulfillment
 - Isaiah 31:5-- *“Like birds flying about, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will deliver it; Passing over, He will preserve it.”*
 - 2) Today the nation of Israel is a “body without life”, secular but not spiritual

b. The “Life-giving” Phase

- Ezekiel 37:21-28-- *“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.*

David, My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe my statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with

them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.””

- 1) Will take place at the second coming of Jesus Christ
- 2) Between the two phases, Israel will experience the 70th week, known as the “time of Jacob’s trouble”. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will die during the tribulation.
 - Zechariah 13:8-- *“two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it.”*
- 3) God uses the intense anti-Semitism to prepare them for their Messiah
 - Zechariah 13:9-- *“I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”*

Applications:

1. The fact that the first phase of the regathering is in process right now indicates how close we are to the end of this intermission and the start of the 70th week. Since the rapture of the church will take place prior to the commencement of the 70th week, it could happen at any moment. Are you ready for the return of Jesus Christ?
2. God uses suffering in our lives to transform us from secular to spiritual.
 - Hebrews 12:11-- *“No chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*