**GOD CAN USE TWO STICKS OF WOOD**

**PART 1**

**Ezekiel 37:16-17**

[**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-16/)**Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions:**

[**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-17/)**And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Time and time again, I’ve noticed that God used two sticks of wood to carry out His will and His ways.**

**\*\*This message is divided in two separate messages so that you can grasp how God used two sticks of wood in each bible story that is presented.**

**\*\*In each story you will see that it is associated with God breathing and bringing new life into someone or something.**

**1. We’ll see God using two sticks to Reinforce Life**

**2. We’ll see God using two sticks to Retain Life**

**3. We’ll see God using two sticks to Revive Life**

**4. We’ll see God using two sticks to Regenerate Life**

**Quote: “Living without God’s plan for our life is like sewing with a needle without thread, or writing one’s biography with a pen that doesn’t have ink.”**

**\*\*Jesus said, “I come so that you might have life more abundantly.”**

**\*\*Since seeing that God used two sticks of wood over and over again to bring about life, I felt it should be looked into deeper so that we might have life!**

**I. GOD CAN USE TWO COMPANION STICKS**

**Ezekiel 37:15-20, 26-28**

[**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-15/)**The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,**

[**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-16/)**Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions:**

[**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-17/)**And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.**

[**18**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-18/)**And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these?**

[**19**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-19/)**Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.**

[**20**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-20/)**And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.**

**…………………………………………………………………..**

[**26**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-26/)**Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.**

[**27**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-27/)**My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

[**28**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ezekiel-37-28/)**And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.**

**\*\* God wants to breathe new life in His people.**

**\*\*God told Ezekiel to take two sticks of wood and give an illustration. He was to simply tie two sticks together and make them into one stick! Here is what that illustrated:**

 **A. THERE WOULD BE ONE PEOPLE (One Society)**

 **1. God took two sticks of wood and showed us how He can make One Body of People and One Community!**

 **2. God took two sticks of wood and showed us how He can make One Bunch of People and One Culture!**

**\*\*The tribe of Judah and the tribe of Joseph were two separate kingdoms, and God said I will make you into one!**

**Application:Right now God’s kingdom is divided! One day He’ll take a stick of people from Here and a stick of people from Heaven, and make them into one Holy people!**

 **B. THERE WOULD BE ONE POWER (One Supremacy)**

**Ezekiel 37:27b . . . yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

 **a. Only God would be Sovereign**

 **b. Only God would be Saving**

**Ezekiel 37:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: . . . I will be their God.**

 **\*He saves from Detestable Things that Defile!**

 **\*He saves from Dark Transgressions that Defile!**

 **C. THERE WOULD BE ONE PRINCE (One Spot)**

**Ezekiel 37:25 . . . and my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever.**

 **1. Jesus is the Prince who made Himself our Servant**

 **2. Jesus is the Prince who made Himself our Shepherd**

**Ezekiel 37:24 and they all shall have one shepherd:**

 **D. THERE WOULD BE ONE PARISH (One Sanctuary)**

**Ezekiel 37:26Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.**

 **a. These Church People have a Peace**

**\*\*That is called a Testimony!**

 **b. These Church People have a Place**

**\*\*That is called a Tabernacle!**

**\*\*God used two sticks of wood to illustrate how he wanted to reinforce life in the nation of Israel – His people!**

**Application: I still believe that God can take a stick of His people from this church and add another stick of His people from this community and be the God of this place and bless us if we will follow His plan! He can reinforce life in this church!**

**We can be One People, with One Power, with One Pastor (let me be that Servant and Shepherd), in One Parish!**

**II. GOD USED TWO CARRYING STICKS**

**\*\*Let’s look at the two sticks that carried the Ark of the Covenant.**

**Exodus 25:12-16** [**12**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-12/)**And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put *them* in the four corners thereof; and two rings *shall be* in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it.** [**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-13/)**And thou shalt make staves *of* shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.** [**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-14/)**And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them.** [**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-15/)**The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.** [**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-16/)**And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.**

 **A. Notice the Load**

 **1. These two sticks carried the Presence of God**

 **a. That Ark represented God’s Glory**

 **b. That Ark represented God’s Grace**

**Application: I believe that God could still use some carrying sticks that will carry God’s presence into the Sanctuary!**

 **I believe that God could still use some carrying sticks that will carry in the Glory of God and the Grace of God into the Sanctuary!**

**Illustration: Some of the old-timers would have God all over them before church ever started! God’s presence would be so strong on them that they would begin to testify, cry, and shout before church ever started. Then they would carry it on into the church house! I believe God could still use some carrying sticks to carry His presence with them!**

 **2. These two sticks carried the Power of God**

**\*\*God’s power was demonstrated again and again just because that Ark stayed in their camp!**

 **a. This power brought down the Adversaries!**

 **b. This power brought down the Atheists!**

 **c. This power brought down the Adversities!**

 **d. This power brought down the Afflictions!**

 **e. This power brought down the Almighty!**

 **\*They received the Almighty’s Blessings!**

 **\*They received the Almighty’s Benefits!**

 **3. These two sticks carried the Proof of God**

**Hebrews 9:4 . . . the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;**

**Ezekiel 37:16 [16](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Exodus-25-16/%22%20%5Co%20%22Exodus%2025%3A16%20KJV%20verse%20detail)And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.**

**\*\*Testimony means there is proof!**

 **a. The Book of God was in the Ark**

 **b. The Bread of God was in the Ark**

 **c. The Blossom of God was in the Ark**

**Numbers 17:8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.**

**\*\*Once again we see God bringing life through a stick!**

**Application: God could still use some sticks to carry the Book, the Bread, and the Blossoms! Carry the Word of God with you; carry the Bread of Life with you, and let God blossom in your life and give you almonds to eat on!**

 **B. Notice the Levites**

**I Chronicles 15:14-15 [14](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Chronicles-15-14/%22%20%5Co%20%221%20Chronicles%2015%3A14%20KJV%20verse%20detail) So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.** [**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Chronicles-15-15/)**And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.**

**\*\*These Levites are a whole lot like these two sticks.**

 **1. Notice the Poles’ Sparkle**

 **a. They sparkle and overlaid with Precious Gold.**

 **b. They sparkle and overlaid with Preferred Gold.**

**Application: God’s people who carry the Presence of God, the Power of God, and the Proof of God sparkle because they are golden people that God overlaid with precious and preferred Gold called Grace. God help us all to be one of those sticks – one of those people!**

 **2. Notice the Poles’ Strength**

 **a. These poles are made for the Weight they carry.**

 **b. These poles are made for the Work they carry.**

**Application: God’s people are just sticks of wood that He overlaid with precious and preferred gold that is equipped to carry the weight and do the work that the Lord has sat upon them to do! You can carry the Book! You can carry the Bread! You carry the Box that God wants you to carry!**

 **3. Notice the People’s Sanctification**

**I Chronicles 15:14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.**

 **a. They made sure they were Unspotted by Sin**

 **b. They made sure they were Unstained by Sin**

**Application: Only Spirit-filled and Sanctified people can be the sticks that God uses to carry out His will.**

 **4. Notice the People’s Shoulders**

**\*\*Thank God for the Christian People who will carry a load on their shoulders and lift up Christ, lift up the Church, and lift up the Clergy with their prayers.**

**CLOSE**

**Isn’t it amazing what two sticks can do?**

**1. We saw two sticks that illustrated how God can strengthen His People!**

**2. We saw two sticks that illustrated how God can support His Presence, His Power, and His Proof!**

**\*\*God’s people are nothing but little sticks that carry God’s Presence, God’s Power, God’s Proof, God’s People, and God’s Preachers on their shoulders!**

**\*\*Here is how you carry me. Your prayers carry me through. Your testimonies carry me through. Your singing carries me through. Your encouragement carries me through. When one person gets down, the Lord and the rest of the family carries them through. When you and I can’t carry ourselves, the Lord and the rest of the family carries us through. I say, “Carry on church!”**

**\*\*Will you come now and be one of those sticks for the Lord that will carry the load for the Lord or for others?**

**\*\*I believe God could use at least two more sticks: Companion Sticks and Carrying Sticks.**