

Panorama of Jerusalem, looking westward to a place of the living, from "the Mount of Olives, a place of death and graves yet unopened"



In light of the establishment of the State of Israel and of Israeli Independence Day and of Judaism as a religious and national identity, it would be difficult for students of the 20th Century not to see prophecy in reading these verses from Ezekiel 37 drawn from the larger context below.

12. לָכֵן הִנָּבֵא וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם, כֹּה-אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה, הִנֵּה אֲנִי פֹתֵחַ אֶת-קִבְרוֹתֵיכֶם וְהֵעֲלִיתִי אֶתְכֶם מִקִּבְרוֹתֵיכֶם, עַמִּי; וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶתְכֶם, אֶל-אֲדַמַּת יִשְׂרָאֵל

Therefore prophesy, and say unto them: Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

13. יֵג וְיִדְעֻתֶם, כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה: בְּפִתְחֵי אֶת-קִבְרוֹתֵיכֶם, וּבְהֵעֲלוֹתִי אֶתְכֶם מִקִּבְרוֹתֵיכֶם—עַמִּי

And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O My people

14. יֵד וְנָתַתִּי רוּחִי בְכֶם וְחַיִּיתֶם, וְהִנַּחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם עַל-אֲדַמַּתְכֶם; וְיִדְעֻתֶם כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה, דְּבַרְתִּי וְעָשִׂיתִי-- {פ} נֶאֱמַר-יְהוָה.

And I will put My spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land; and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken, and performed it, saith the LORD.' {P}

As I have pointed out in class, this is the first time in Jewish history in which we see this phenomenon: "I say this and I do this" as a foreshadowing (of the future and of all time). It may be the first and only Gd-promise to be repeatedly realized in human history. Belief is before our eyes . . .

יחזקאל 37 Chapter Ezekiel

<p>א הִיִּתָּה עָלַי, יַד-יְהוָה, וַיּוֹצֵאֵנִי בְרוּחַ יְהוָה, וַיְנִיחֵנִי בְּתוֹךְ הַבְּקָעָה; וְהִיא, מְלֵאָה עֲצָמוֹת.</p>	<p>1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and the LORD carried me out in a spirit, and set me down in the midst of the valley, and it was full of bones;</p>
<p>ב וְהֶעֱבִירֵנִי עֲלֵיהֶם, סָבִיב סָבִיב; וְהִנֵּה רַבּוֹת מְאֹד עַל-פְּנֵי הַבְּקָעָה, וְהִנֵּה יְבֹשׁוֹת מְאֹד.</p>	<p>2 and He caused me to pass by them round about, and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.</p>
<p>ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי--בֶּן-אָדָם, הֲתַחְיֶינָה הָעֲצָמוֹת הָאֵלֶּה; וָאֹמַר, אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ.</p>	<p>3 And He said unto me: 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered: 'O Lord GOD, Thou knowest.'</p>
<p>ד וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי, הִנְבֵּא עַל-הָעֲצָמוֹת הָאֵלֶּה; וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם--הָעֲצָמוֹת הַיְבֹשׁוֹת, שְׁמַעוּ דְבַר-יְהוָה.</p>	<p>4 Then He said unto me: 'Prophecy over these bones, and say unto them: O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD:</p>
<p>ה כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה, לָעֲצָמוֹת הָאֵלֶּה: הִנֵּה אֲנִי מְבִיא בָכֶם, רוּחַ--וַחְיִיתֶם.</p>	<p>5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.</p>
<p>ו וְנָתַתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם גִּידִים וְהֶעֱלַתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם בָּשָׂר, וְקָרַמְתִּי עֲלֵיכֶם עוֹר, וְנָתַתִּי בָכֶם רוּחַ, וַחְיִיתֶם; וַיֵּדַעְתֶּם, כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה.</p>	<p>6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.'</p>
<p>ז וַנְּבִאתִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי; וַיְהִי-קוֹל כַּהֲנָבְאִי, וְהִנֵּה-רֶעַשׁ, וַתִּקְרְבוּ עֲצָמוֹת, עֶצֶם אֶל-עֶצְמוֹ.</p>	<p>7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a commotion, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.</p>
<p>ח וַרְאִיתִי וְהִנֵּה-עֲלֵיהֶם גִּדִים, וּבָשָׂר עָלָה, וַיִּקְרַם עֲלֵיהֶם עוֹר, מִלְּמַעְלָה; וְרוּחַ, אִין בָּהֶם.</p>	<p>8 And I beheld, and, lo, there were sinews upon them, and flesh came up, and skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them.</p>
<p>ט וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי, הִנְבֵּא אֶל-הָרוּחַ; הִנְבֵּא בֶן-אָדָם וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶל-הָרוּחַ {ס} כֹּה-אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה, מֵאַרְבַּע רוּחוֹת בְּאֵי הָרוּחַ, וּפְחִי בְּהַרוּגִים הָאֵלֶּה, וַיְחִיּוּ.</p>	<p>9 Then said He unto me: 'Prophecy unto the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath: {S} Thus saith the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'</p>
<p>י וְהִנְבִּאתִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי; וַתָּבוֹא בָהֶם הָרוּחַ וַיְחִיּוּ, וַיַּעֲמֻדוּ עַל-רַגְלֵיהֶם--חֵיל, גָּדוֹל מְאֹד-מְאֹד.</p>	<p>10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great host.</p>
<p>יא וַיֹּאמֶר, אֵלַי, בֶּן-אָדָם, הָעֲצָמוֹת הָאֵלֶּה כָּל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵמָּה; הִנֵּה אֲמַרִים, יְבָשׁוּ עֲצָמוֹתֵינוּ וְאֶבְדָּה תַקּוּתֵנוּ--נִגְזַרְנוּ לָנוּ.</p>	<p>11 Then He said unto me: 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say: Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.</p>

<p>יב לכו הנבא ואמרת אליהם, כה-אמר אדני יהוה, הנה אני פתח את-קברותיכם והעליתי אתכם מקברותיכם, עמי; והבאתי אתכם, אל-אדמת ישראל.</p>	<p>12 Therefore prophesy, and say unto them: Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.</p>
<p>יג וידעתם, כי-אני יהוה: בפתחי את-קברותיכם, ובהעלותי אתכם מקברותיכם--עמי.</p>	<p>13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O My people.</p>
<p>יד ונתתי רוחי בכם וחייתם, והנחתי אתכם על-אדמתכם; וידעתם כי-אני יהוה, דברתי ועשיתי--נאם-יהוה. {פ}</p>	<p>14 And I will put My spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land; and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken, and performed it, saith the LORD.' {P}</p>