



Ezekiel 37:15–20

By ignoring its context, Mormons use this passage as a prophecy of the Book of Mormon scripture coming forth and being joined to the Jewish/Christian scripture (the Bible) to become one body of Scripture for the Church. The “stick of Judah” supposedly represents the Bible, to be written by descendants of Judah. The “stick of Joseph” in the hand of Ephraim supposedly represents the Book of Mormon, to be written by descendants of Joseph. The latter is brought to the world in the hands of the Mormon Church, most of whose North American members are named by their “Patriarchal Blessing” as members of the tribe of Ephraim. The “sticks” supposedly represent scriptures since the Scriptures were written on scrolls wrapped around a wooden shaft.

- 1 The sticks were to be written on by Ezekiel himself.
- 2 Benjamin & Judah formed the southern kingdom of Judah.
- 3 Indicates the sticks were representative.
- 4 Ten tribes formed the northern kingdom of Israel.
- 5 As in a scepter, representing the royal power of each nation.
- 6 Israel & Judah to be rejoined as one nation under one royal power.

15 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, **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** And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. **18** And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? **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** And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

EXPLANATION

- 1) This was a visual object lesson. Ezekiel was to do the writing, not other later prophets. Ezekiel was told what to write on each stick. He was to display the sticks to the people, and tell them what they signified.
- 2) The children of Israel who remained companions to Judah were the tribe of Benjamin and a smattering of individuals from other tribes.
- 3) What Ezekiel wrote on each stick was what that stick was “for”— what it represented. The sticks represented two royal powers or nations. These were the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah, formed at the rebellion of the ten tribes against Rehoboam, son of King Solomon.
- 4) All the house of Israel who became companions to Ephraim in rebellion against Rehoboam were the ten northern tribes, later known as the “ten lost tribes” after their deportation under the Assyrians.
- 5) Ephraim and Manasseh together (Joseph) held more territory than any other tribe in Israel. The rulership or royal power of the northern state of Israel was in the hand of Ephraim, i.e., its kings were from the tribe of Ephraim. Judah’s royal power remained “in house.” All its kings were of the Davidic line in the tribe of Judah. The sticks, like scepters, represented these two nations as embodied in their kings’ royal powers of government.
- 6) The two sticks were joined together in one hand, indicating that the two nations would someday be rejoined in the millennial restoration of Israel as one nation under one royal power headed by David. *God Himself provides this as the true interpretation, in verses 21–28 of this same chapter.* The sticks represented two nations, not two bodies of scripture. (Moreover, the Book of Mormon was supposedly written on gold plates, not on scrolls.) Most Bible scholars agree that “David” (v. 24) is to be understood as Jesus Christ, the greatest descendent of David, the great Antitype of which David was the type.

KEY TO USING THIS PAGE

The biblical passage is highlighted in blue to indicate that this is a passage to which alternative religions ignore the context of the passage. The notes to the left of the passage can be written in the margins of a Bible to help explain the passage (however, do not write the numbers). The numbers correspond with the detailed explanations at the bottom of the page. These explanations help readers to fully understand the meaning of each marginal note.