

A dramatic scene featuring a whale's tail breaching the surface of a dark blue, stormy ocean. The sky is filled with bright, jagged lightning bolts, and rain is falling diagonally across the frame. The overall atmosphere is intense and powerful.

# EPIC TALES

**RELEARNING THE ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY**

# Valley of Dry Bones



**EPIC TALES**



# Who was Ezekiel?

## History Lesson

- When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured Jerusalem in 597 BC, he took many of the leading citizens of Jerusalem as hostages to Babylon, among whom was Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi (1:3). They were resettled at a place called Tel Abib on the river Chebar, one of the tributary canals of the Euphrates River southeast of Babylon. It was there that Ezekiel received his call as a prophet of the Lord in 593 BC.
- His prophetic call came to him “in the fifth year of Jehoiachin’s captivity” (594 BC, see 1:2). He lost his wife in the ninth year of exile, by some sudden and unforeseen stroke (Ezek. 8:1; 24:18). He held a prominent place among the exiles, and was frequently consulted by the elders (8:1; 11:25; 14:1; 20:1). His ministry extended over twenty-three years (29:17), 595–573 BC, during part of which he was contemporary with Daniel (14:14; 28:3) and Jeremiah, and probably also with Obadiah. The time and manner of his death are unknown.

– Easton’s Bible Dictionary and Harpers Bible Dictionary

# EPIC TALES

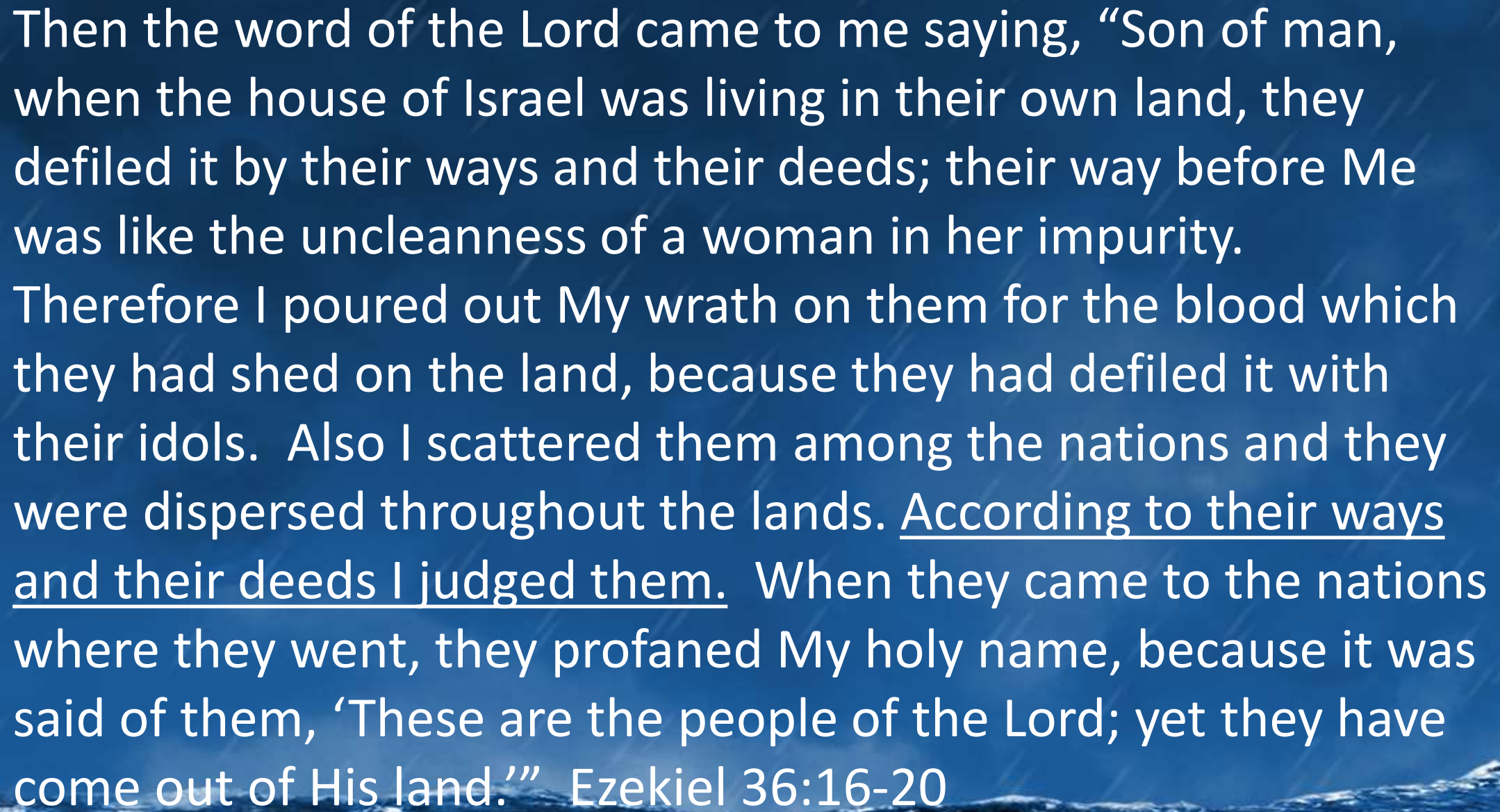


# Ezekiel chapter 36



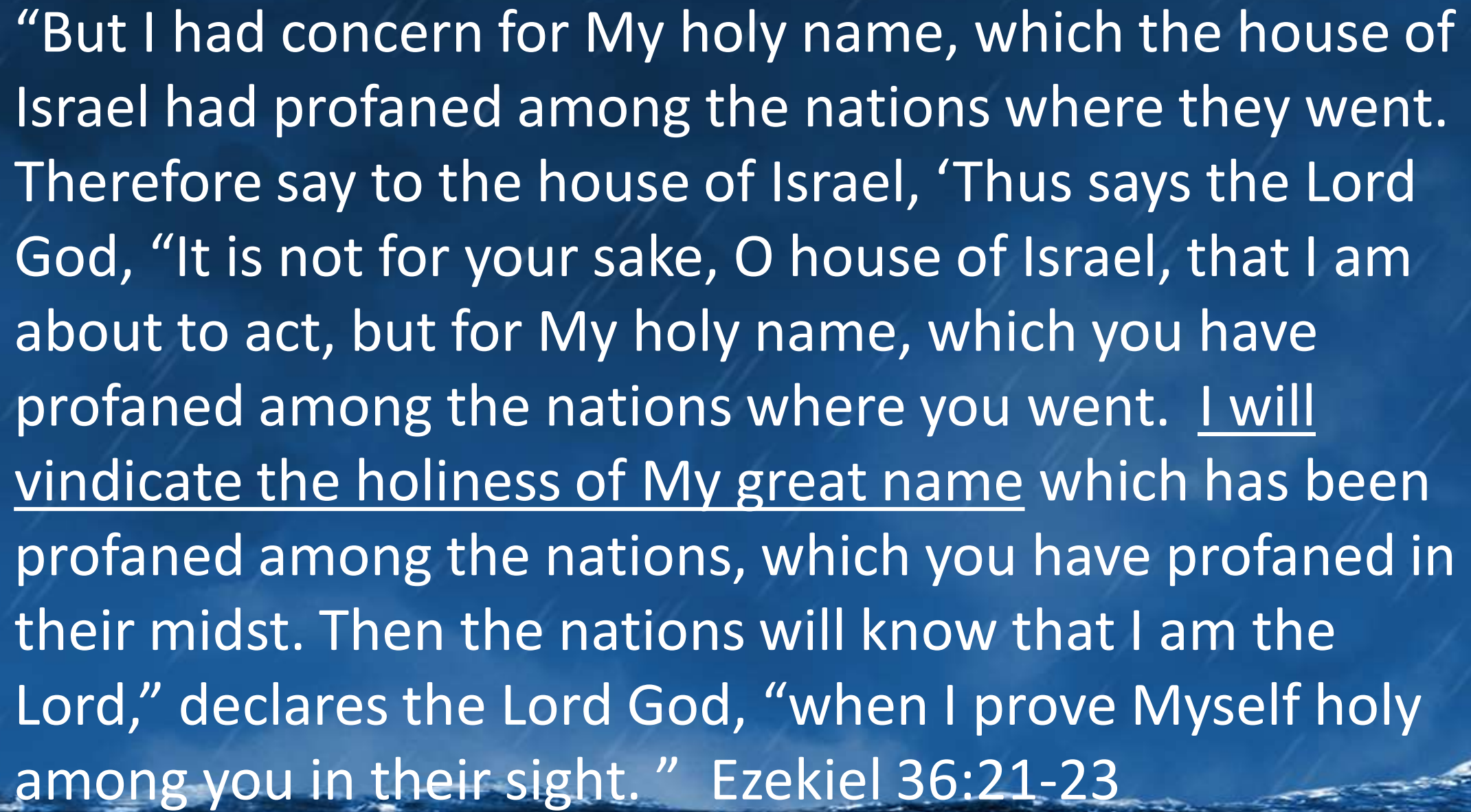
**EPIC TALES**



A photograph of a whale's tail breaching the surface of the ocean. The tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the point of exit. The water is a deep blue with white-capped waves. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them. When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the Lord; yet they have come out of His land.’” Ezekiel 36:16-20

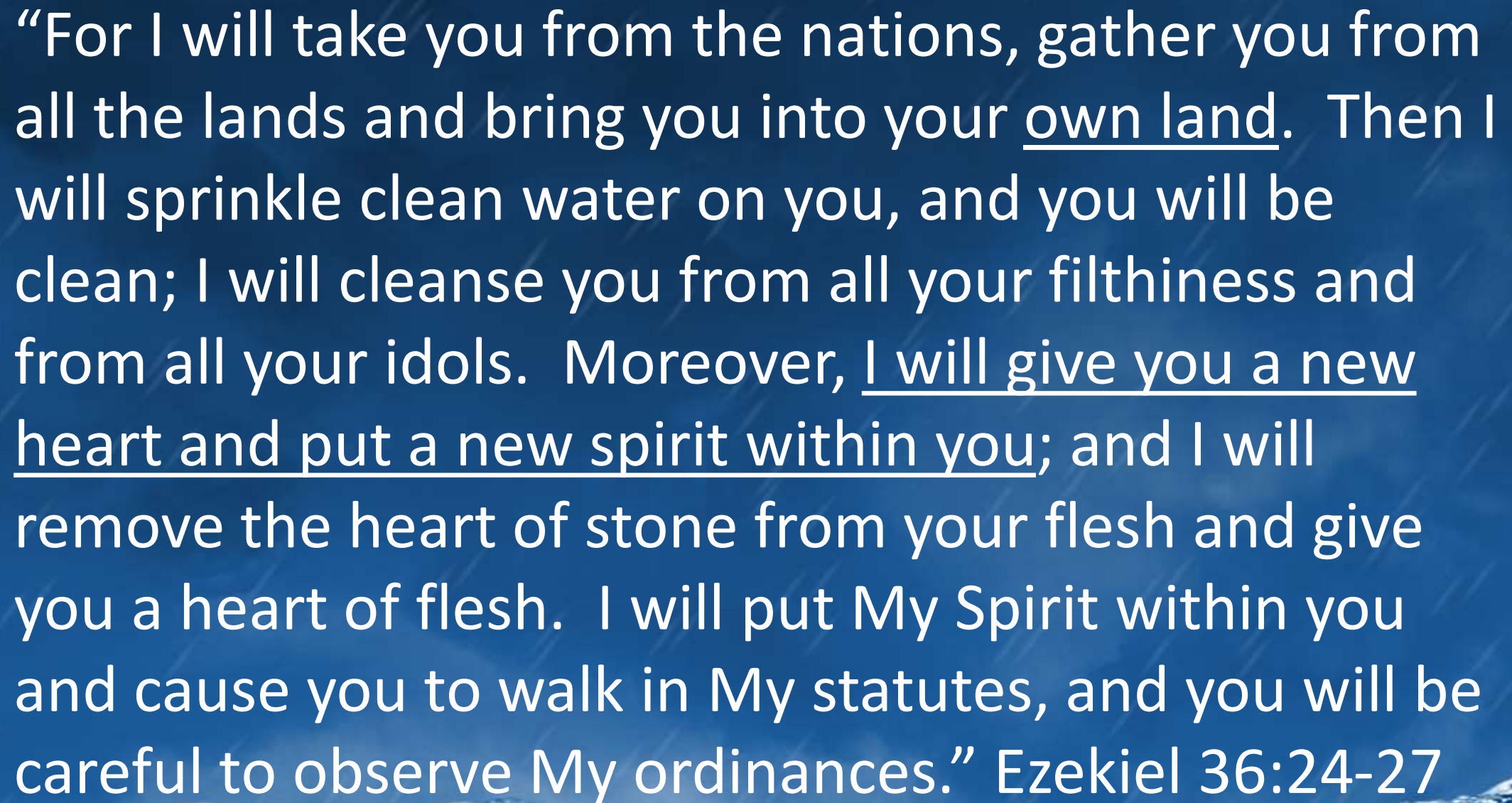
**EPIC TALES**

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went. Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord,” declares the Lord God, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.”’ Ezekiel 36:21-23

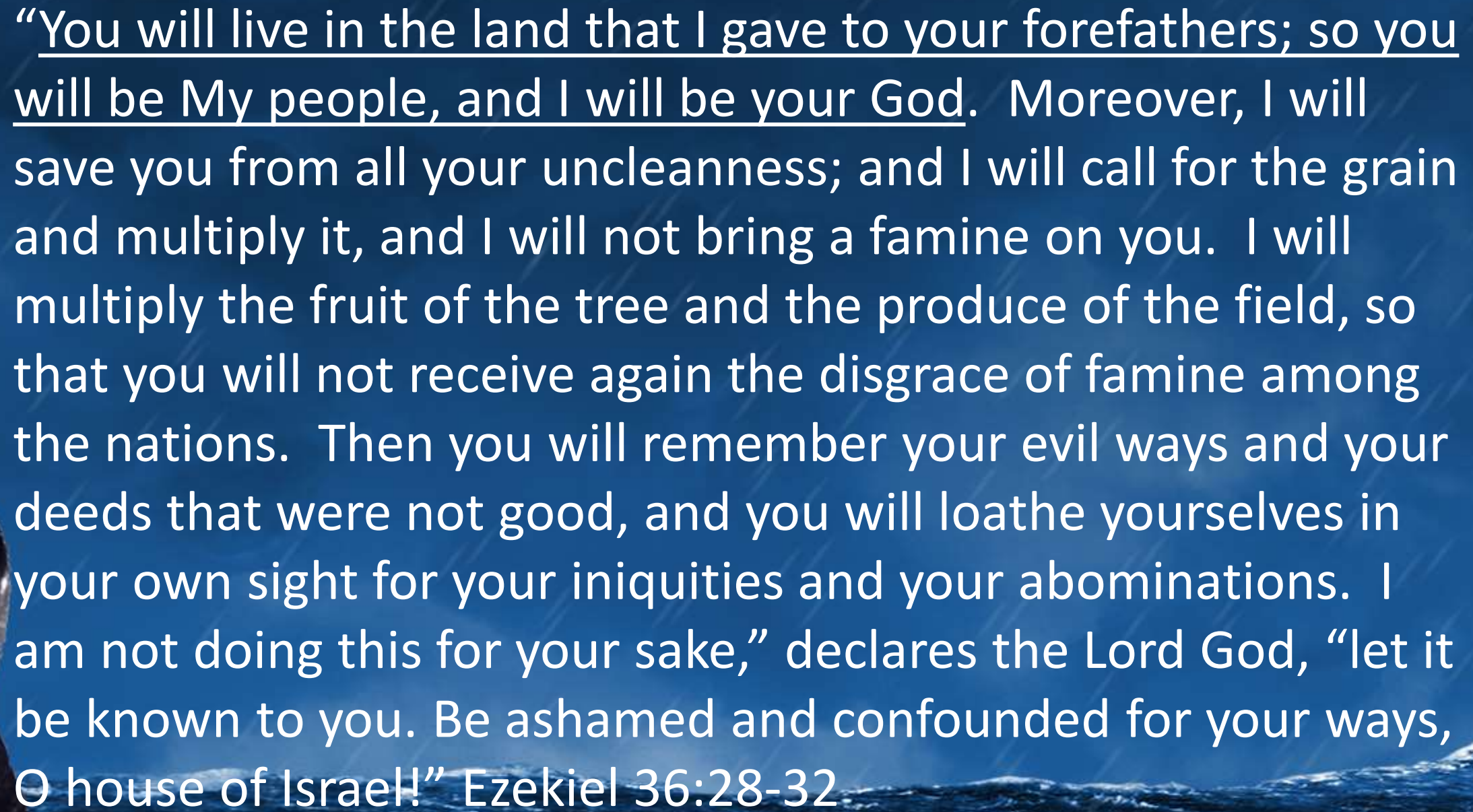
**EPIC TALES**



A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean, set against a background of a blue sky with light rays. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” Ezekiel 36:24-27

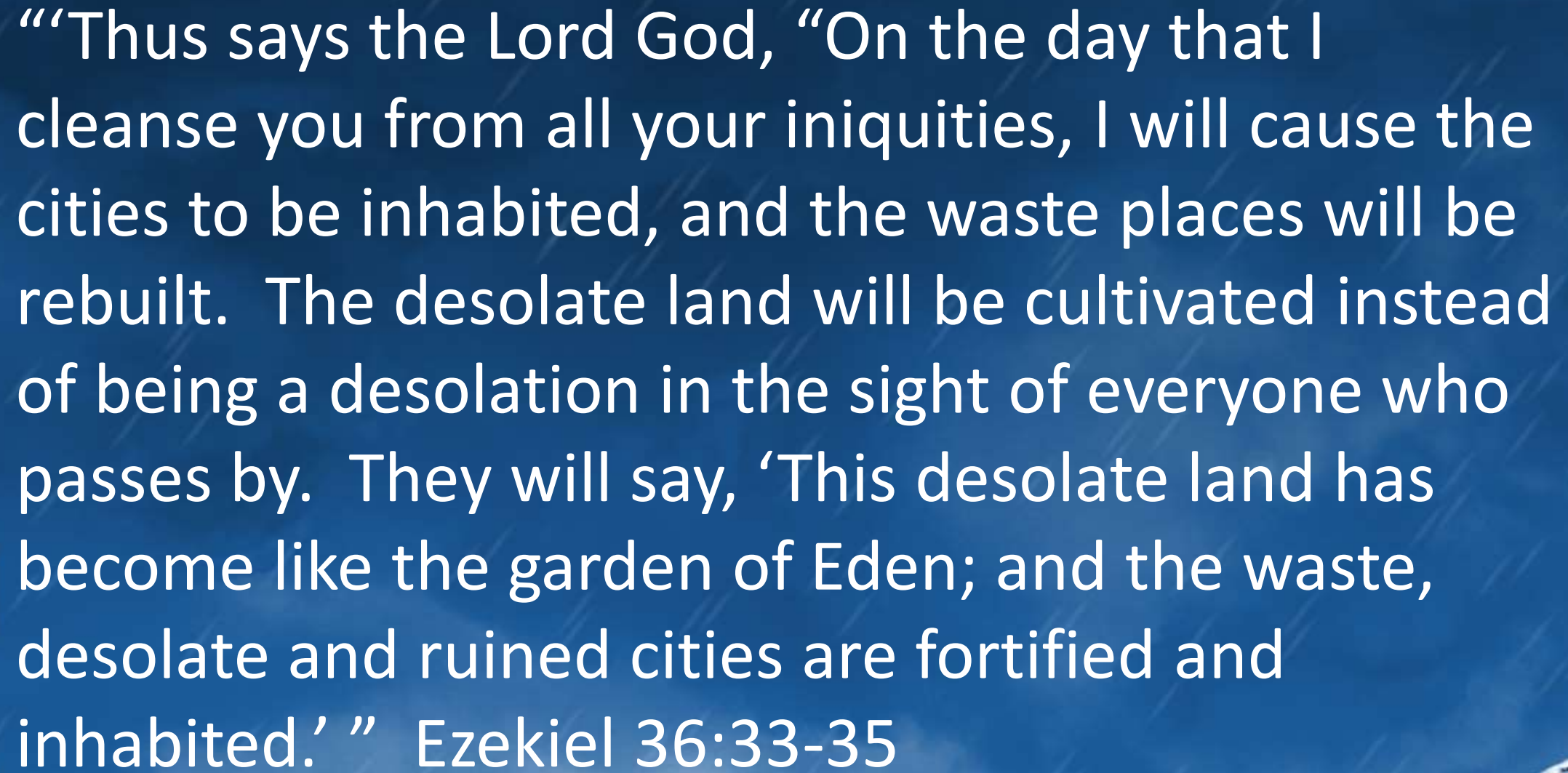
**EPIC TALES**



“You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. I am not doing this for your sake,” declares the Lord God, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!” Ezekiel 36:28-32

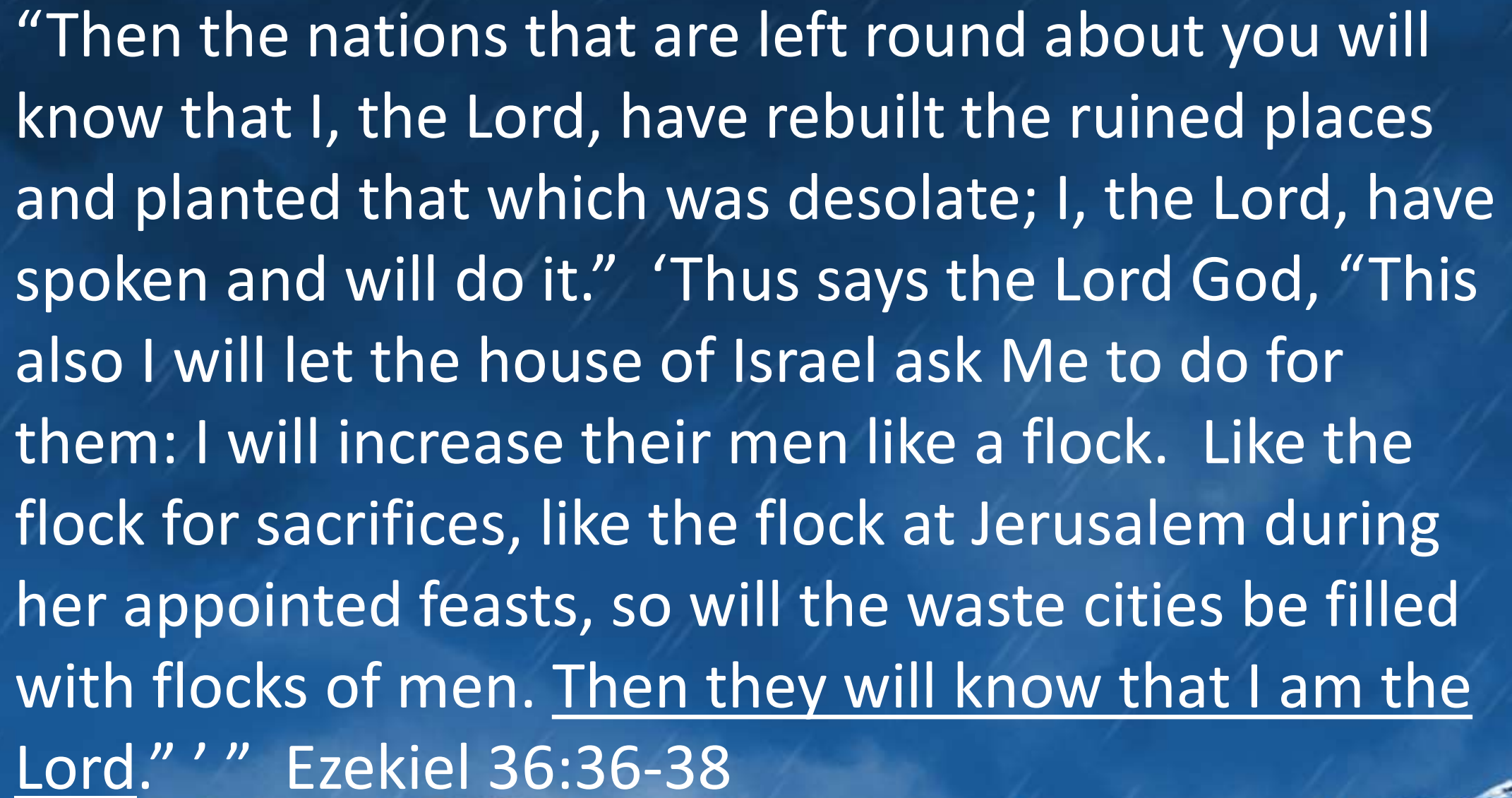
**EPIC TALES**



A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the blue ocean. The tail is dark and has a white patch near the tip. The water is a deep blue with some white foam from the tail's movement.

“Thus says the Lord God, “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.’ ” Ezekiel 36:33-35

**EPIC TALES**



“Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the Lord, have spoken and will do it.” ‘Thus says the Lord God, “This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock. Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the Lord.” ’ ” Ezekiel 36:36-38

**EPIC TALES**



# Ezekiel chapter 37



**EPIC TALES**

The hand of the LORD was on me, and He brought me out by His Spirit [ruach רוּחַ] and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry [dead for a long time]. Ezekiel 37:1-2

\*This was no recent disaster but the product of a long process of decay and death. And the valley was full of these bones—there were very many. It was a total disaster not merely touching one or two people, but the whole nation. – Peter Jeffery

\*Has your life ever felt empty, like dry bones?

**EPIC TALES**





# Valley of Dry Bones







# Valley of Dry Bones



Then He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I replied, “Lord God, only You know.” Ezekiel 37:3

Prophet Ezekiel knows that only God can accomplish such a feat.

Do we believe that God can give life?

Do we believe that He can revive the dead?

**EPIC TALES**




Again He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath [ruach רוּחַ] to enter you that you may come to life.” Ezekiel 37:4-5

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

**EPIC TALES**








“I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath [ruach רוּחַ] in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am The Lord [Yahweh יְהוָה].” So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath [ruach רוּחַ] in them. Ezekiel 37:6-8

For a lot of us, we look good on the outside but there is no breath (spiritual life) in us

**EPIC TALES**

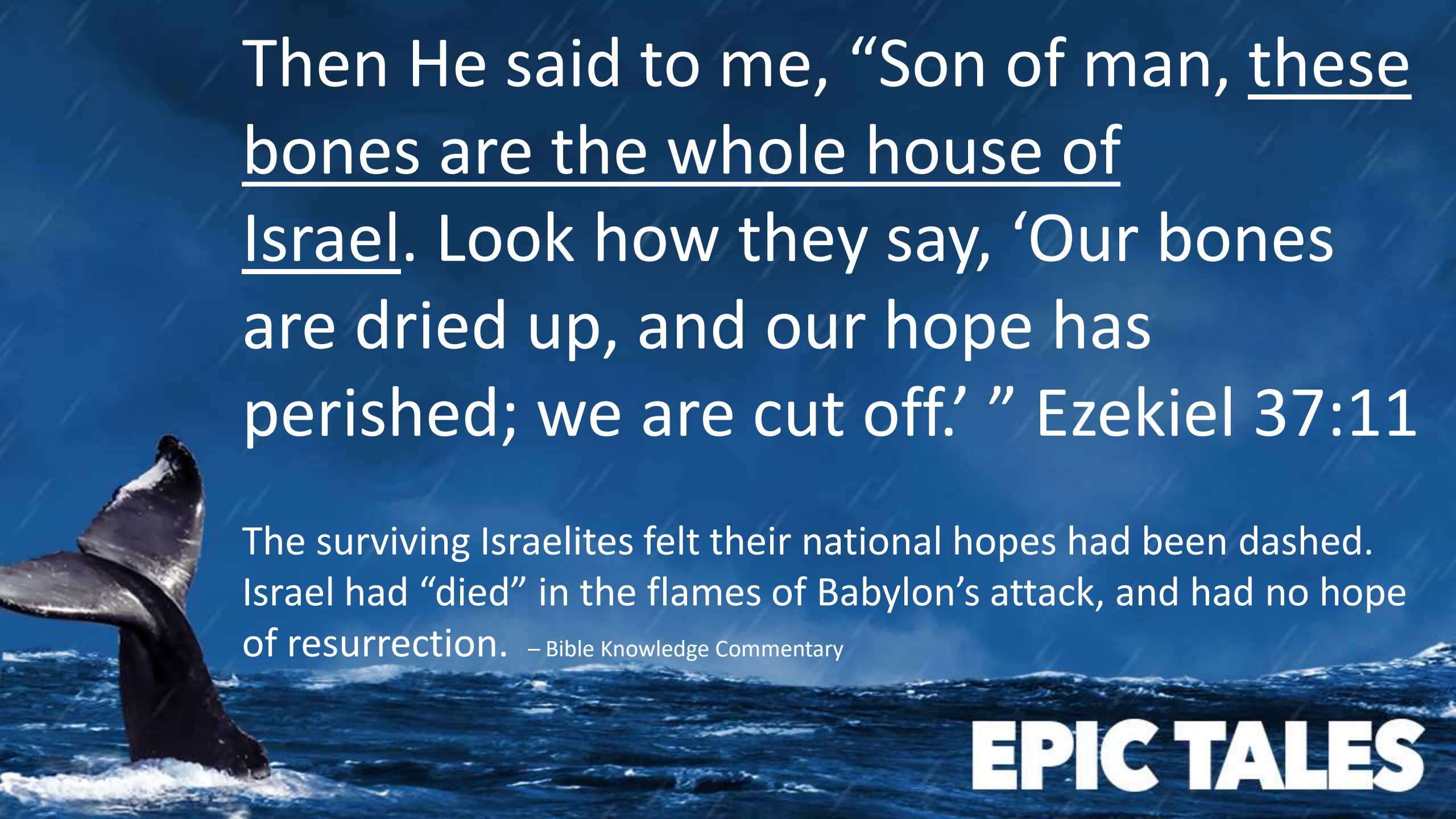


He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath [ruach רוּחַ], prophecy, son of man. Say to it: This is what the Lord GOD says: Breath [ruach רוּחַ], come from the four winds [ruach רוּחַ] and breathe into these slain so that they may live!” So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath [ruach רוּחַ] entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army. Ezekiel 37:9-10

\*What would happen if the vast army that professes to follow Jesus would come to life and stand on their feet?

**EPIC TALES**





Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Look how they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished; we are cut off.’ ” Ezekiel 37:11

The surviving Israelites felt their national hopes had been dashed. Israel had “died” in the flames of Babylon’s attack, and had no hope of resurrection. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

**EPIC TALES**

# Have you ever felt like this?

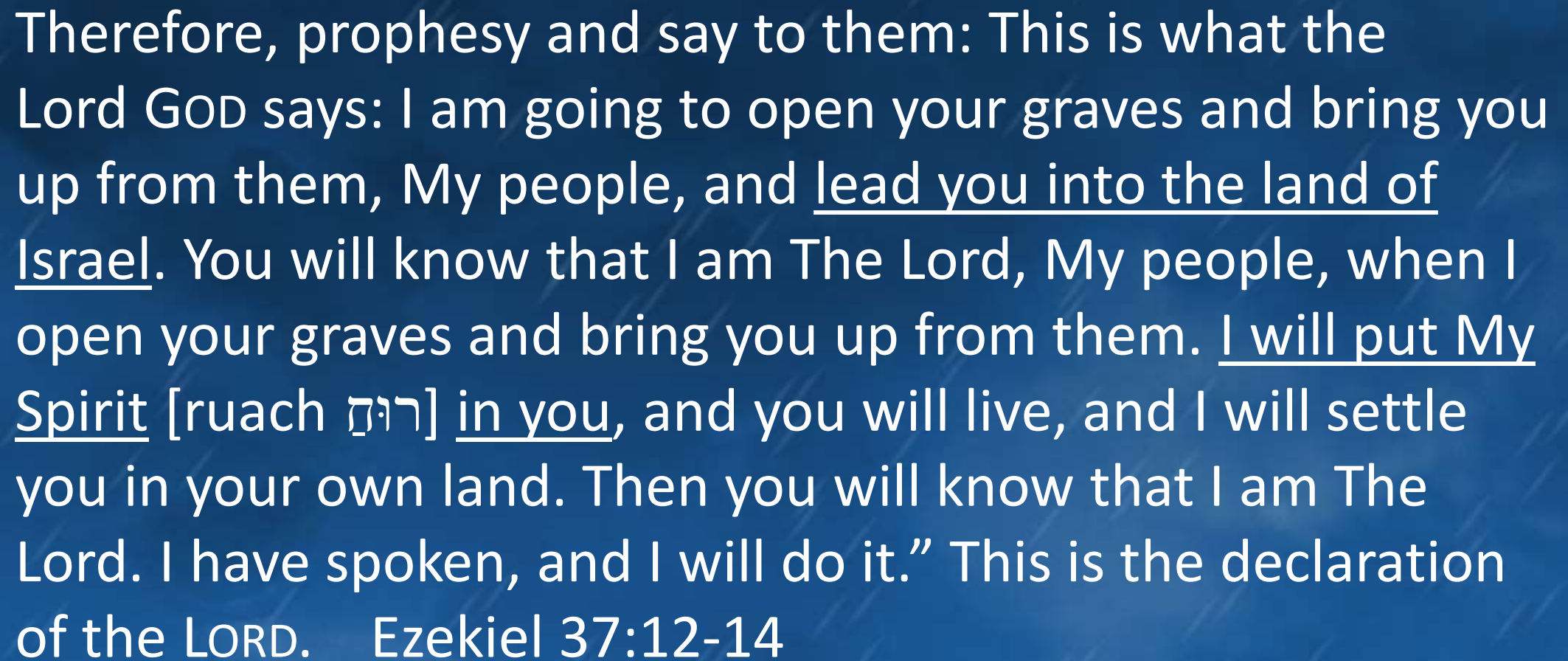
Ezekiel 37:11

- “our bones are dried up” – living a life without God
- “our hope has perished” – change is impossible
- “we are cut off” – God has abandoned us

[https://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/3653881/jewish/Speak-to-the-Dry-Bones.htm](https://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/3653881/jewish/Speak-to-the-Dry-Bones.htm)

**EPIC TALES**





Therefore, prophesy and say to them: This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them, My people, and lead you into the land of Israel. You will know that I am The Lord, My people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put My Spirit [ruach רוּחַ] in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am The Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it.” This is the declaration of the LORD. Ezekiel 37:12-14

God promises Physical restoration AND Spiritual restoration

**EPIC TALES**

A key to understanding the vision is Ezekiel's use of the Hebrew word ruach רוּחַ. This word is translated as "Spirit" in verses 1 and 14; as "breath" in verses 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10; and as "winds" in verse 9. But in Hebrew the same word is used every single time.

What is the connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the valley of dry bones? The same God was at work in both places. He performed the same kind of miracle. In both places He took someone dead and made Him alive again. In both places He took someone given over to death and raised Him to life.

<http://www.mountain-retreat.org/sermons/can-these-bones-live.shtml>

**EPIC TALES**






**Empty people  
need an empty tomb**

**God the Father  
brought Jesus to life  
and He wants to do  
the same for you.**

**EPIC TALES**



“As for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit [ruach רוּחַ] which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring’s offspring,” says the Lord, “from now and forever.” Isaiah 59:21

Isaiah's prophecy reminds us never to abandon God's Word and to allow ourselves to be moved by it.

<https://www.thejc.com/judaism/features/what-the-dry-bones-say-1.14794>

**EPIC TALES**



## History Lesson

After King Solomon died the nation of Israel split asunder, in 931 BC. The Southern Kingdom was known as **Judah** because Judah was its larger tribe and because the country was ruled by a king from that tribe (cf. 1 Kings 12:22–24). The Northern Kingdom was called **Israel**, or sometimes **Ephraim** (e.g., Hosea 5:3, 5, 11–14) either because Ephraim was the strongest and most influential tribe or because the first king of Israel, Jeroboam I, was an Ephraimite (1 Kings 11:26). Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria in 722 BC, and Judah was taken into exile by Babylon in 605, 597 and 586 BC.

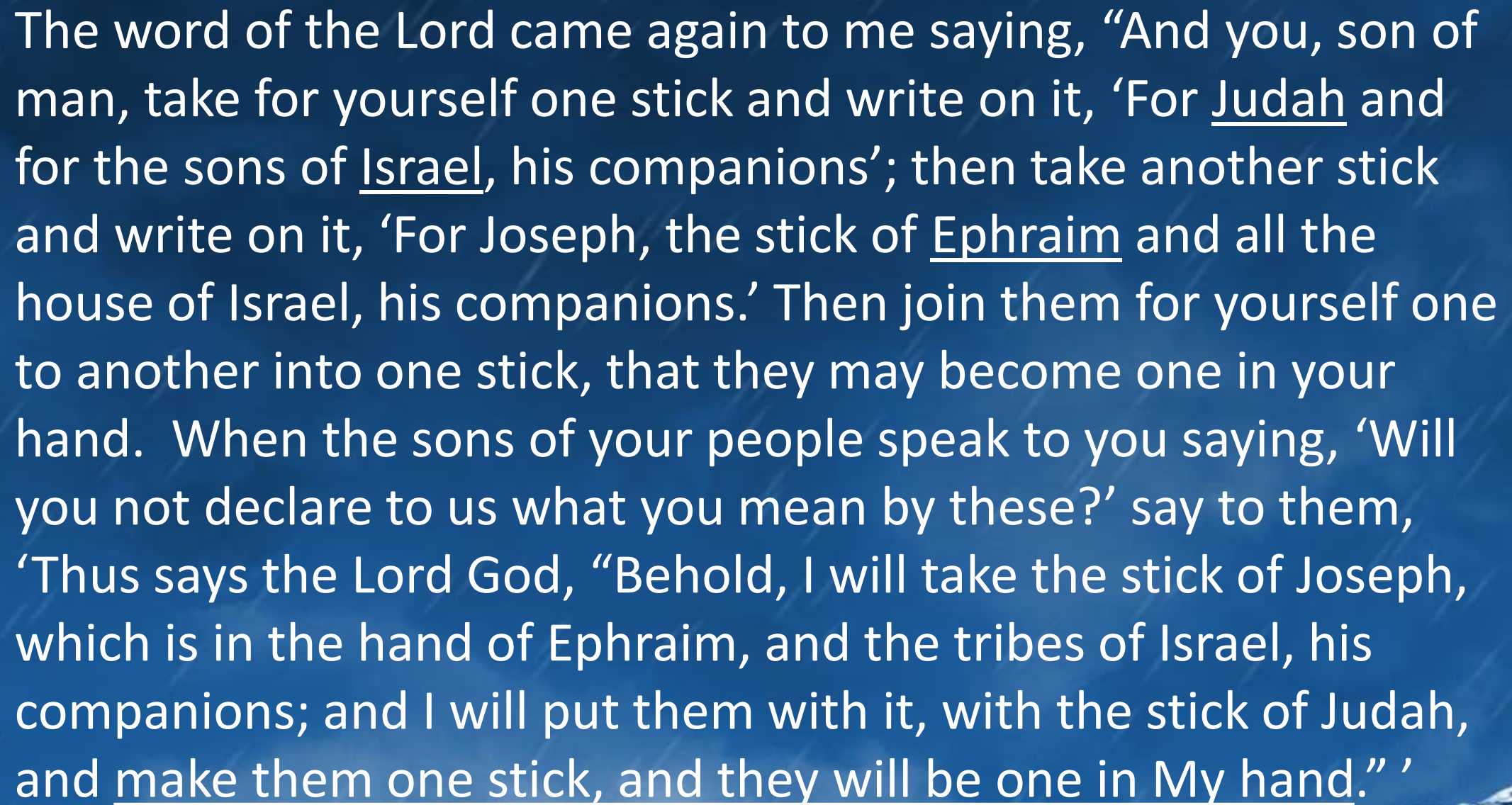


Tribe
Levi
Zebulun
Gad
★ Benjamin
Simeon
Issachar
Naphtali
Joseph
Reuben
★ Judah
Dan
Asher

# History Lesson

★  
2 tribes in Southern Kingdom

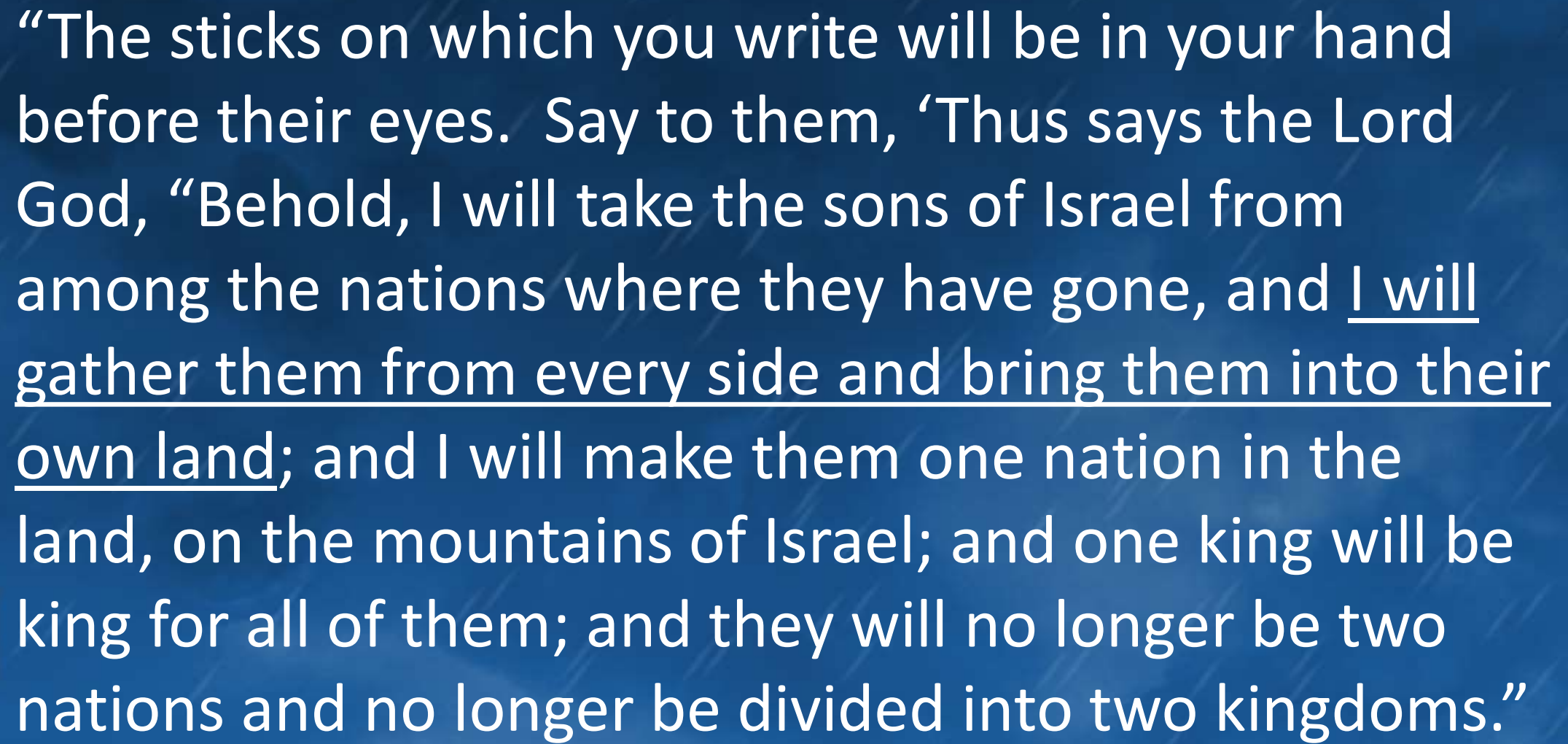




The word of the Lord came again to me saying, “And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. When the sons of your people speak to you saying, ‘Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?’ say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”’

Ezekiel 37:15-19

**EPIC TALES**

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the whale's splash. The sky is a lighter blue with some light rays or lens flare effects.

“The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I 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 will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.”

Ezekiel 37:20-22

**EPIC TALES**



# Nefesh B'Nefesh olim land as interest in aliyah reaches record numbers

In June alone, Nefesh B'Nefesh reported that they received 1,350 immigration applications, compared to 399 in June of last year.

By ZACHARY KEYSER JULY 9, 2020 18:18



36 olim land in Israel as part of a Nefesh B'Nefesh Group Aliyah Flight (photo credit: NETANIE CHERIN)

Some 38 new immigrants (olim) landed at Ben-Gurion Airport Wednesday morning as part of a Nefesh B'Nefesh Group Aliyah Flight. Organization of the flight itself was a concerted effort between Nefesh B'Nefesh, the Aliyah and Integration Ministry, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel and JNF-USA.



28 olim land in Israel as part of a Nefesh B'Nefesh Group Aliyah Flight (Netanel Cohen)

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/nefesh-bnefesh-olim-land-as-interest-in-aliyah-reaches-record-numbers-634453>

**THE JERUSALEM POST**

**EPIC TALES**



**Jacob Judah**

July 9, 2020 10:10



# Pandemic could push aliyah to 250,000 over three years, says Jewish Agency

Nefesh b'Nefesh, which assists immigration from North America and the UK, said in June it had received a fivefold increase in calls compared to 2019

<https://www.thejc.com/news/israel/israel-expects-coronavirus-aliyah-boost-as-jewish-agency-estimates-over-2-200-global-jewish-deaths-1.501398>



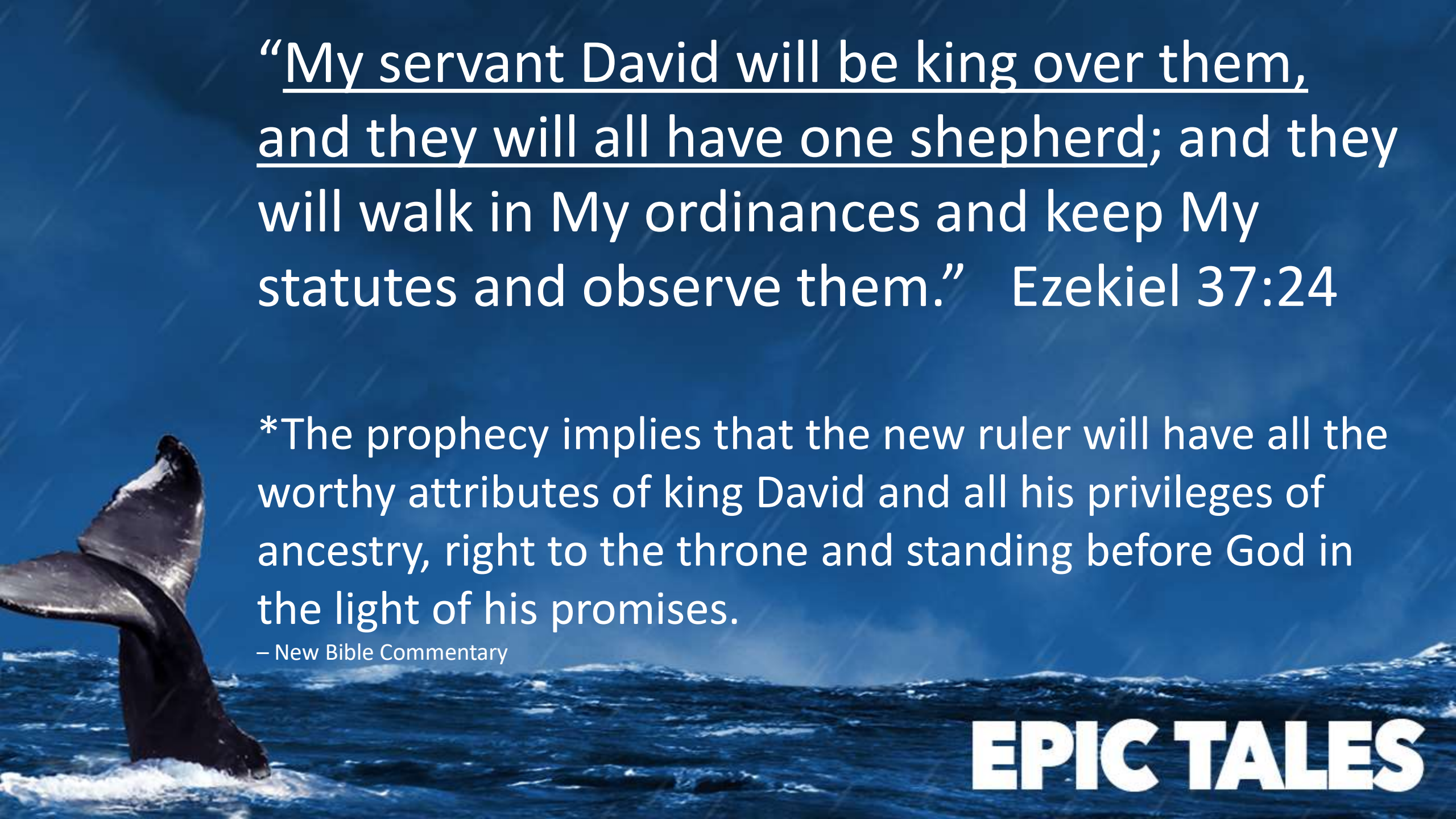
# EPIC TALES



# Spiritual Revival of Israel is promised by God

“They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 37:23

**EPIC TALES**

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water.

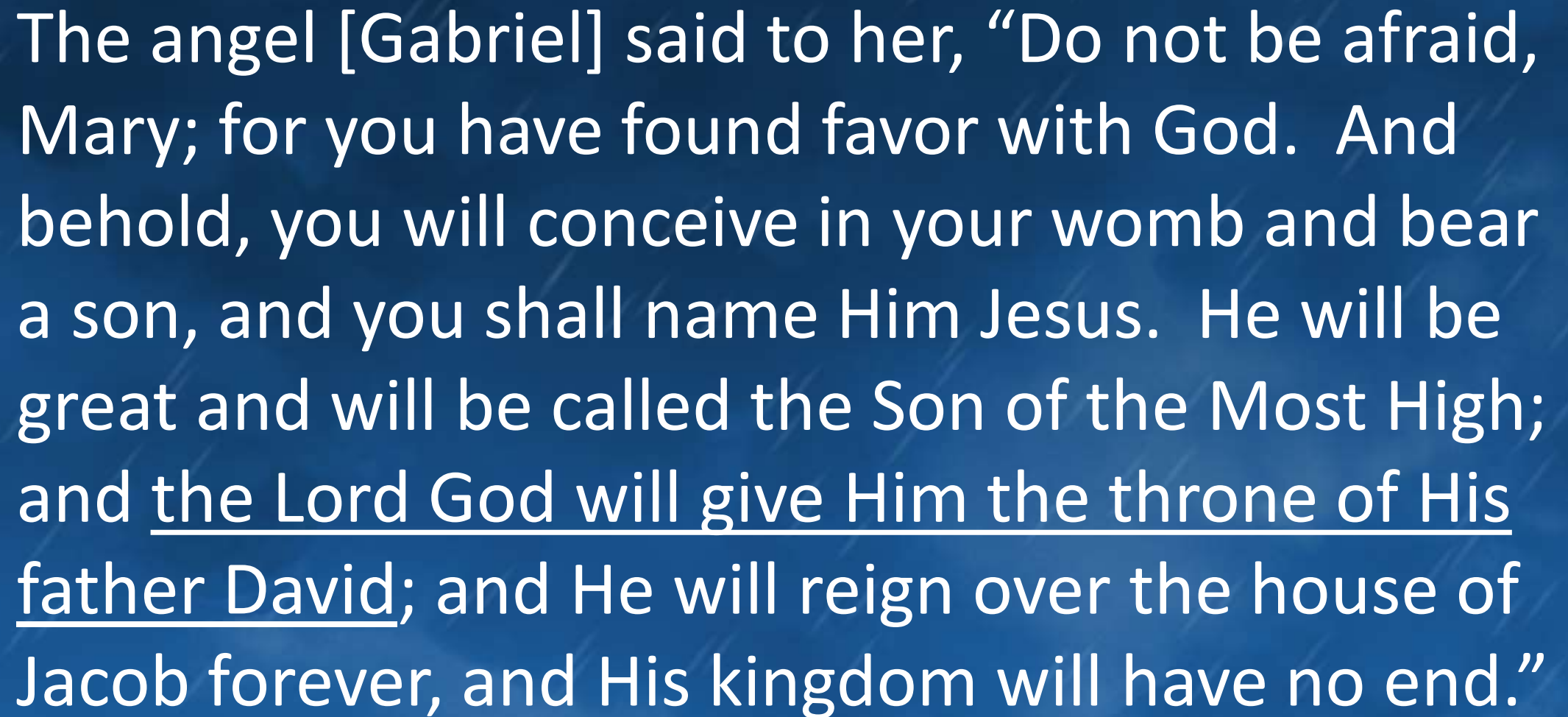
“My servant David will be king over them,  
and they will all have one shepherd; and they  
will walk in My ordinances and keep My  
statutes and observe them.” Ezekiel 37:24

\*The prophecy implies that the new ruler will have all the worthy attributes of king David and all his privileges of ancestry, right to the throne and standing before God in the light of his promises.

– New Bible Commentary

**EPIC TALES**



A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean, set against a blue sky and sea background. The whale's tail is dark and curved, with white foam at the base where it meets the water.

The angel [Gabriel] said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Luke 1:30-33

**EPIC TALES**

“They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.” Ezekiel 37:25

**EPIC TALES**







# What Did God Promise Jacob in the Dream?

\*1400 years earlier

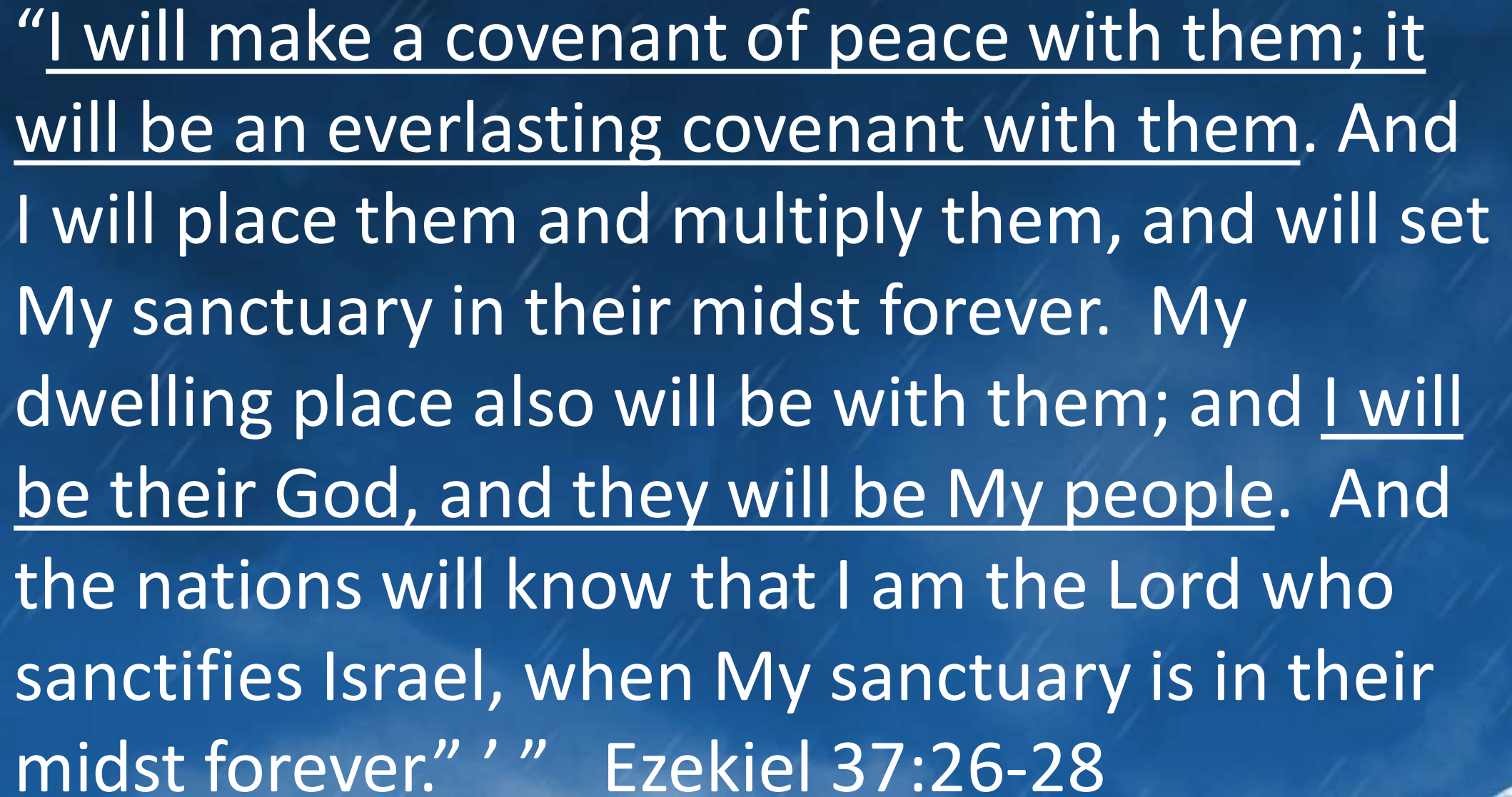
And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Genesis 28:13-14

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“I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.” ’ ” Ezekiel 37:26-28

**EPIC TALES**

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the ocean. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and the sky above is a lighter, hazy blue. The whale's tail is dark and appears to be moving, creating a splash of white water at the base. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Have we seen dry  
bones come alive in  
this generation?

**EPIC TALES**

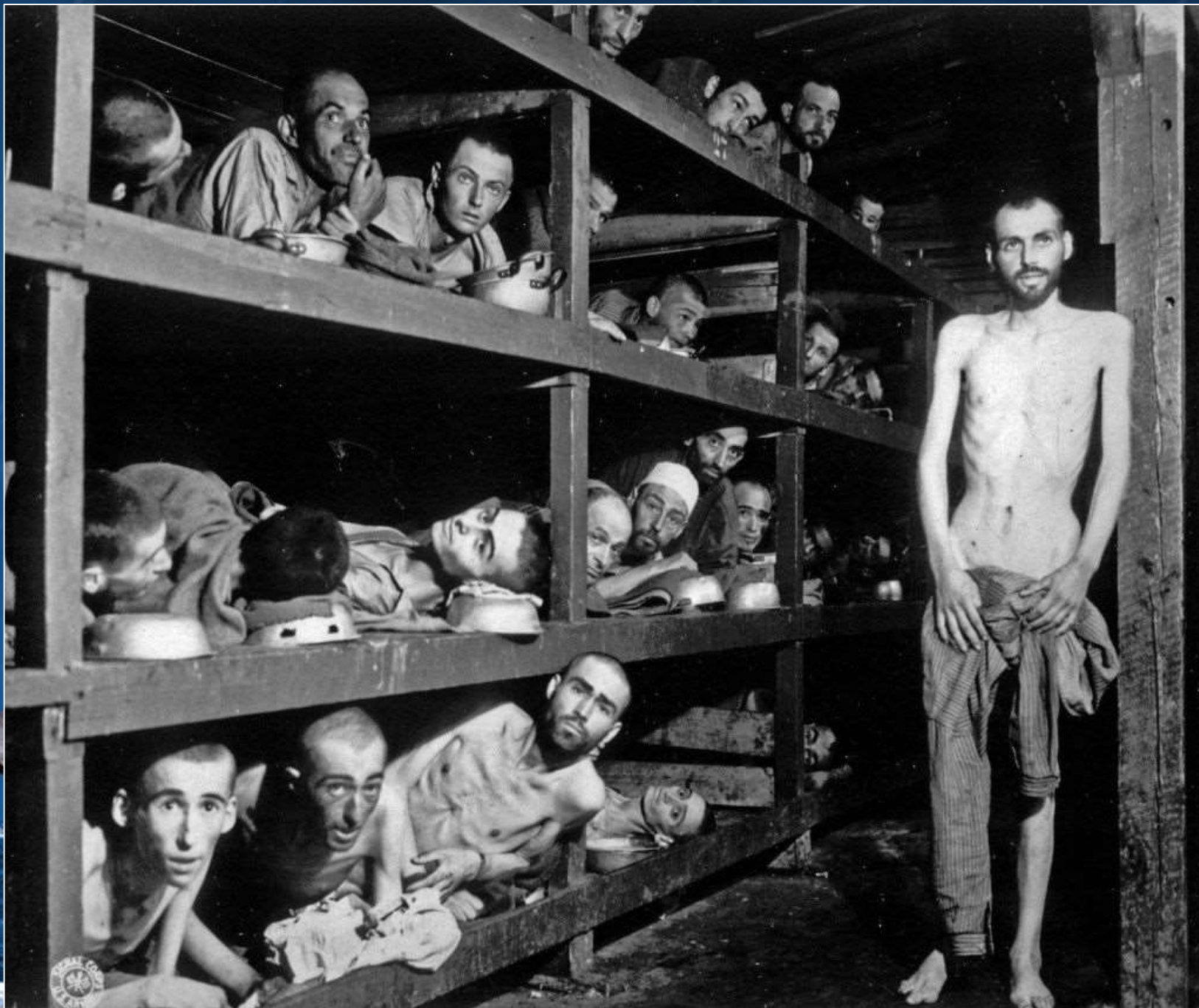




Prisoners at  
Ebensee  
Concentration  
Camp in  
1945.

**IC TALES**





In this April 16, 1945 photo, inmates of the German KZ Buchenwald are seen inside their barracks a few days after U.S troops liberated the concentration camp near Weimar, Germany.

- The Associated Press

**EPIC TALES**



# Prophetic Timing

Like the dry bones reanimated into a living person that Ezekiel envisioned, Israel did indeed become a nation once again on May 14, 1948, after nearly 1900 years since the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD and scattered the Jewish people across the globe. After all these centuries, this prophecy has been fulfilled in our modern generation.

- <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/timing-gog-magog/#sthash.YZu6sgLI.dpuf>

**EPIC TALES**



# History Lesson





**Israeli Declaration of Independence** was proclaimed on 14 May 1948 by David Ben-Gurion, Executive Head of the World Zionist Organization, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and soon to be first Prime Minister of Israel. It declared the establishment of a Jewish state known as the State of Israel, which would come into effect on termination of the British Mandate at midnight that day.

- wikipedia

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# God makes and keeps promises

“Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.’ For thus says the Lord, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel” Jeremiah 33:14-17

**EPIC TALES**



# What about America today?

Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matthew 23:27-28

**EPIC TALES**

# What about America today?

- The spiritual condition of our land is frightening, but is it past hope? Can these bones live today?
- Is God telling us to witness to dry bones such as these, to tell them the gospel? And can we respond, as Ezekiel did, ‘So I prophesied as I was commanded’? (37:7). It may be that we feel totally inadequate to meet the needs of today, but we could not be more inadequate than Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones. Our adequacy is no more the issue than the condition of the bones. What really matters is this: do we trust God to work?

- Peter Jeffery

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