

Can These Bones Live?

Ezekiel 37:1-10 - (NIV) - The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath (**The Hebrew for this word can also mean wind or spirit**) enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

***Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones** came to him after God had directed him to prophesy the rebirth of **Israel in chapter 36**.

This promise seemed impossible in light of Israel’s present condition.

- She was “**dead**” as a nation,
- **Deprived** of her land, her king, and her temple.
- She had been divided and dispersed for so long that ***unification and restoration seemed impossible***.
- So God gave Ezekiel the vision of the dry bones as a sign.

Ezek. 37:1 - The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in ***the middle of a valley; it was full of bones***.

- **Probably a battle field**...the dead, slain, bodies of warriors who have long since been forgotten...
 - **They were probably very strong** in there time but now only scattered bones!
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Ezek. 37:2 - He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, ***bones that were very dry.***

White, bleached, brittle, even the worms wouldn't inhabit these bones now...

- Here is the life that is **without God.**
- Here is the life that is **wasted.**
- Here is the life that has **no hope.**
- **Drugs** have left it **desolate.**
- **Alcohol** has broken it **to pieces.**
- ***The improper relationship*** has caused it to be **without hope.**
- **Sin** has **destroyed it.**
- **Hopelessness** is **all around it.**
- **Despair** **surrounds it.**
- **Unhappiness** **overwhelms it.**
- **Dejected** by its former self.
- **Depressed** by its current condition.
- **Discouraged** by its failures.
- **Disheartened - Disappointed - Destitute**
- It has **no hope** of ever returning to ***its previous glory.***

And so, they're abandoned!!!

- **Even the man of God would not have known where they were if God Himself would not have showed these bones to Him.**

Ezek. 37:3 - He asked me, "Son of man, ***can these bones live?***"

I said, "***Sovereign Lord, you alone know.***"

- Even the preacher had **no hope** for these slain.
- So He says "**Only you know God**"!

If they were to live, he realized that it was going to take a real move of God.

- **It's a wise man who realizes he needs God!**
 - **When you come to that conclusion, your half way home!**
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Ezek. 37:4 - Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, **‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’**

The dry bones represented the people’s spiritually dead condition!!!

- **Stop listening to other voices...listen to God**
- ***We need to get into a place where we can hear His Word!!!***
- What makes us think we can overcome this world and it’s influences **without His word?**

Heb. 4:12 - **For the word of God is alive and active.** Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- **The Word of God is living, life-changing, and dynamic as it works in us!**
- **God’s Word reveals who we are and what we are not!**
- **We must not only listen to the Word; we must also let it shape our lives.**

Ezek. 37:5 - This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: **I will make (or Cause)** breath enter you, and **you will come to life.**

- ***The Hebrew for this word can also mean wind or spirit***
- **Only God can truly deliver you from some things...**

He said “I will cause”.

When you give your heart over to Him He goes to work on you.

- You couldn’t work hard enough to get that raise...but all of a sudden **God blesses you financially!**
- You couldn’t love enough to keep your marriage...but all of a sudden **God is melting your hearts together.**
- You couldn’t believe enough to be healed...then all of a sudden **He Heals You!!!**
- You couldn’t live good enough to save yourself...So **He dies on the tree and Saves You!**

God said He would Do it.

- He would **Save you** - He would **Heal you.** - He would **Deliver you.**
- He would **Help you.**

When we forsake our own abilities and seek God's help!

Ezek. 37:6 - I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. ***Then you will know that I am the Lord.***

- This is the reason God has brought us to this place in life...
- That we might know Him!!!
- The reason He has allowed us to make such a mess of our lives –
- Is - ***so that He could show us who He is!!!***

Ezek. 37:7 - So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, ***there was a noise, a rattling sound***, and **the bones** came together, ***bone to bone***.

When God begins to **put a life back together** there is a noise.

- It might take **some shaking up**.
- It might take you finding yourself **at the end of your rope**.
- Or at **the bottom of the pit**.

“When you’ve hit rock bottom the only- way to look is up!!!”

Mule Story here

Ezek. 37:8 - I looked, and ***tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them***.

- They looked like soldiers...**but they weren’t soldiers!!!**

They looked like Christians...

- But in reality they were **just dried up bones** covered in flesh
- **No life! No breath of God! No Holy Spirit! No Power! No anointing!**

Acts 1:8 - Jesus said that - ***“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you!”***

- The ***“POWER”*** believers receive from the Holy Spirit includes ***courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority!!!***

Jesus had instructed his disciples to witness to people of all nations about him...

- But they were **told to wait** first **for the Holy Spirit!!!**

Ezek. 37:9 – Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: **Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.**’

When real revival comes into your life it will come from all directions.

Did you hear me? ... all directions!!!

- I’m talking about a **God who can heal broken marriages**.
- **He can heal and diseased bodies**.
- He can bleed your finances.
- He can save your children.
- He can deliver you from addictions.
- He can bleed you on your job.
- He can help you pay your bills.

When His blessings flow - - - they flow from every direction!!!!

- He said whatsoever you bind in earth shall be bound in heaven.
- He said ask and it shall be given
- He said ask and you shall receive.

We just need for God to breath on us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We just need for the Holy Spirit to move on us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ezek. 37:10 – So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and **stood up on their feet—a vast army**.

You can't work for God lying down - - - - -

It's time to get up and be counted... ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you don't **stand for something** you will stand for nothing...

It's time for we **the church of the living God** to get into formation –

Fall into the ranks and rise to the occasion that has been set before us.

Exceeding great army!!!

Not a wish-washy-always-looking-for-the-easy-way-out church with no spiritual back bone or holy tenacity that doesn't know how to **pray and touch God.**

Close:

We are called to be an exceeding great church!!!

- We should be a church like the world has never seen before!!!
- We should have services that are bar none
- *When someone visits our church, they should have an experience with the lord that they will never forget.*
- Nothing should even *slightly resemble the genuine praise and worship* that goes up in this sanctuary!

***Coca-Cola – 1969 slogan “It’s the real thing!”

Why? Because this thing is real!

- Our God is holy
- It's not man made, but it's God ordained
- *Isn't it time* we let God be in control of the service.
- *Isn't it time* that we allow the presence of God to become *a living, breathing, touching, moving*

***Coca-Cola 1990 Slogan – “You can’t Beat The Real Thing!”

The reviving of the dry bones signified God’s plan for Israel’s future national restoration.

The vision also, and most importantly, showed that Israel’s new life depended on God’s power and not the circumstances of the people.

Putting “breath” by God’s Spirit into the bones showed that God would not only restore them physically but also spiritually.

These Bones responded!!!

Will You?????

Just as God brought Life to the dead bones, he would bring life again to his spiritually dead people.