

DRY BONES

Text: Ezek 37:1-3

37 The hand of the Lord was upon 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, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Introduction: When you read this story or hear someone preach from these verses, you are usually introduced to a miracle wrought by Jehovah God. But if you read this whole setting of scripture, you will discover as I did another powerful truth. Verse eleven enlightens us.

Ezek 37:11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'

Let's talk!

I. Our Bones are Dried Up. Hopeless!

A. Ezekiel is a prophet living in a strange land a refugee from the Promised Land.

Ezek 1:1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

B. His audience is the exiles from Israel.

Ezek 2:3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day.

1. They are exiled from their homeland.
2. The reason is their rebellion and sin.

Ezek 5:5 "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

6 Yet in her wickedness she has rebelled against my laws and decrees more than the nations and countries around her. She has rejected my laws and has not followed my decrees.

- C. These words in Lamentations express the idea of Jerusalem's safety as the City of God.

Lam 4:12 The kings of the earth did not believe, nor did any of the world's people, that enemies and foes could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

13 But it happened because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed within her the blood of the righteous.

- C. The cause for the statement by God to Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones is because the exiles feel it is all over for them and their nation. Hopeless!
- D. I am preaching to some folks here today and that have talked to others who attended in the past that the idea expressed is just where Living Light is. IT'S HOPELESS!

II. Scattered. Why Bother or Even Try?

Ezek 37:1 The hand of the Lord was upon 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.

- A. Like Ezekiel I have been taken to a place of dry bones.

Ezek 37:1 The hand of the Lord was upon 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.

1. Not a fertile valley flourishing with growth.
2. Not a serene valley filled with flowers.
3. But a valley where a battle has raged and there have been many casualties.

Ezek 37:1b "...it was full of dry bones."

- B. The Spirit that brought him there made sure Ezekiel saw the vast number of dry bones.

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.

- C. The language in these verses indicates that these dry bones were literally scattered all over the ground.

Ezek 37:7b "...and the bones came together, bone to bone."

- D. "Pastor Ball, they have been scattered everywhere."
- E. I am taking you to this valley today in the Spirit that you might watch and see what God Jehovah is capable of doing.

III. Can These Bones Live? Restoration!

A. God is the One asking this question.

Ezek 37:3a “He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"..."”

1. When God asks a question, you can be sure He has already created the answer.
2. Ezekiel does the only thing he can do.

Ezek 37:3b “...I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."”

B. A simple plan – Preach.

Ezek 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

C. God’s message to those dry bones.

Ezek 37:5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath 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.”

1. “I am going to gather you together again as a Nation.” Israel
2. “I am going to gather you together again as a Body of Christ.” Living Light

E. Ezekiel obeyed the voice of the Lord.

Ezek 37:7a “So I prophesied as I was commanded...”

1. The Word of God will always work.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living 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.

2. Observe what happened.

Ezek 37:7b “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.”

F. Did you notice that all Ezekiel had to do was proclaim the Word of the Lord?

G. Why?

Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Rom 10:17 The point is, Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to. [Message]

Conclusion: All that has been said today is important for your hearing and your believing. But did you notice the last phrase in verse 8” “...but there was no breath in them.”

Ezekiel is given another command to prophecy to the “breath.”

Ezek 37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"

The breath “ruach” here is the breath of God.

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

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.

God's Word to the children of Israel.

Ezek 37:14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."

The word from Jehovah God to Living Light is "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."

Come Holy Spirit and breathe new life into these that they may live!!