

STAY FOCUSED

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Ezekiel 37:1-14

About 2600 years ago God spoke to prophet Ezekiel through a vision. This vision was full of power and symbolism and had 2 basic messages.

The First message was regarding the nation of Israel.

The Second message was regarding the Human Race in general.

To the nation of Israel which was defeated, torn apart and scattered around the world the message brought a prediction of a national resurrection and re-union.

Politically this happened on May 1948, when the modern nation of Israel became officially a Nation. But sadly the nation is still spiritually dead today.

Yet the Bible says that one day when Jesus Christ returns, the nation of Israel will turn to Jesus and be saved.

Romans 11:25-26 – *“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written.”*

Although this vision applies mainly to the Jews, it is also clear that it applies to the Christian covenant, and the general resurrection of the dead.

John 5:28-29 – *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”*

This applies to Jews and others alike.

Galatians 3:8-9 – *“The Scriptures foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”*

What is amazing and stands out more than anything else, is how can a valley full of dry bones come alive, by God’s will and Spirit.

In the vision Ezekiel saw the dry bones of Israel and Judah in the valley come to life, what a miracle.

But let’s look at the second message of this vision which applies to the lost world in general.

We live in a world dead in sin, dry bones everywhere. Even though you see people everywhere moving and walking and doing things. Spiritually speaking most of them are dryer than dry bones found in a desert.

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Without God's intervention this **Valley of Dry Bones** called World would have remained just that a valley of dry bones, without any hope of a present or future life.

But God did intervene **then** and He intervenes **now**. The spirit of God is at work always, today He wants to impress us as He impressed Ezekiel then of the need of revival that is to live again.

God wanted Ezekiel to see the need of a revival.

Ezekiel 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.”*

It probably took Ezekiel few trips up and down the valley to see the need and to believe in the possibility of a revival.

Very often lack of faith prevents revivals.

God tests our faith before His spirit works through us.

God asks Ezekiel *“Can these bones live?”* (v.3)

Ezekiel's answer is a careful non committal *“I don't know Lord”*. But God wants him to speak to them and give them a message of great importance.

Probably God said to Ezekiel. Yes, I know that these bones are dry bones, good for nothing, the way they are, but you speak to them and let me do the rest. You just speak to them and say: *“I will make breath enter them, and they will come to life. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”* (vss. 4-6)

And so Ezekiel reluctantly preaches the Word of God to those dry bones as God had commanded HIM to do. And before his message was even finished.

“There was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.”

Ezekiel 37:7-8

Now there was a big army of people and yet they were as dead as before. And once again God tells Ezekiel what to say to these lifeless souls, and Ezekiel speaks to them, *“and breath entered them, they came to life and stood upon their feet – a vast army.”* (vss.9-10)

And because the prophet believes God and obeys His command and presents the good news to the dry bones in that valley of death, the dry bones became alive again.

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These dry bones represent people, the Bible says: *“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”* 1 John 5:12

If a person does not have Jesus, spiritual speaking he has no life. Just as water brings life to a dry earth, so the Word of God brings life to dry souls. **Isaiah 44:3a** – *“For I will pour water on the thirst land, and streams on the dry ground.”*

What hope is there today for a dying world which looks like a valley of dry bones and no hope? Well, if God could put together dry bones and revive an army and give them life then, He can do the same today.

He can do it by using people like you and me, if we obey Him, even though it may seem impossible.

Even if you think you may be talking to dry bones you must share the Word of God, the Good News, God will do the rest.

A revival is possible! Even dry bones, without flesh and blood, can live. **God’s Spirit Brings Life**. This truth has to be told to a world full of dry bones. But first we need the Holy Spirit to come and **revive us**. As the body without the breath of life is dead, so is the person or church without the Holy Spirit dead.

You and I, are in a valley of dry bones, either like **dry bones** spiritually dead.

Or, alive like Ezekiel bringing the Good News to those who need the Spirit of God to live again.

Either way, you and I have to respond to God’s call.

How are we, how are you going to respond?

Just remember that only Jesus can bring New Life to those who have no life!