

**“The Parable of the Dry Bones”**  
**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Introduction: As we view this chapter, we see the future restoration of Israel (v. 14). Due to the captivities, Israel was scattered by barbarous nations (v. 11). This idea is seen in the valley being full of dry bones, and that it was not in a pile. Not only were these bones dead, but they were also dry, which points to their withered spiritual life. The Lord asked Ezekiel if these bones could live again. His response was, “O Lord God, thou knowest.” Next, we see the remedy to restoration. It is summed up on the word “prophesy”. Preaching is the only hope for Israel (vs. 12-13). If they would repent, then God would restore them to their land and rebuild them. Notice how the Lord would restore Israel.

1. The Scattering of Israel v. 1- “midst of the valley which *was* full of bones”
2. The Spirituality of Israel v. 2- “*they were* very dry”
3. The Summons of Israel v. 4- “hear the word of the LORD”
4. The Stimulation of Israel vs. 5-6- “ye shall live”
5. The Standing of Israel v. 10- “stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army”

Body: Not only does this parable portray the restoration of Israel, but it also describes the resurrection of the dead. Another view is that of the regeneration of sinners. Yet another observation is that of the revival of the church. Look at the situation of the bones. They were dead (v. 1), dry (v. 2), divided (v. 7), and desperate (v. 8). Let us notice the last view as it deals with the revival that every church needs.

- I. The Sight of the Church v. 1- “set me down in the midst of the valley”
  - A. Humbling the Preacher- “set me down” (The burden comes when you get to where the people are at. God’s work cannot be accomplished from a distance.)
  - B. Humbling the People- “midst of the valley” (A valley is as low as you can go.)
- II. The Sadness of the Church v. 1- “full of bones”
- III. The Satisfaction of the Church v. 2- “*they were* very dry”
- IV. The Saving of the Church v. 3- “can these bones live”
  - A. The Impossibility- “bones live” v. 11
  - B. The Inquiry- “O Lord God, thou knowest” Matthew 19:26, Mark 9:23
- V. The Servant of the Church v. 4- “Prophesy upon these bones”
  - A. The Preacher’s Direction v. 1- “The hand of the LORD was upon me”
  - B. The Preacher’s Duty- “Prophesy” (Preach to dead bones?) Romans 4:20-21
    1. Honesty about the Situation- “O ye dry bones”
    2. Hearing of the Scriptures- “hear the word of the LORD”
  - C. The Preacher’s Destitution- “breath” (Without this breath, there will be no results!) Zechariah 4:6, John 6:63
- VI. The Sermons of the Church v. 4- “hear the word of the LORD”
- VII. The Solution to the Church v. 5- “breath to enter into you, and ye shall live”
- VIII. The Shrouding of the Church v. 6- “bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin” (They looked better, but they were just as dead as before. This covering would make the bones capable to move.)

- IX. The Sound of the Church v. 7- “there was a noise”
  - A. It Moved the Bones- “behold a shaking”
  - B. It Merged the Bones- “the bones came together, bone to his bone”
- X. The Dilemma of the Church v. 8- “*there was no breath in them*” Genesis 2:7
- XI. The Spirit of the Church v. 9- “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe”  
(Ezekiel went from preaching in verse four to praying in verse nine. Only Divine power can meet a Divine emergency.)
- XII. The Standing of the Church v. 10- “stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army”

Conclusion: In these last days, can the church still see revival? We must remember that all things are possible with God, even revival. The God of revival is still alive, and if we seek Him, we can experience revival. Let us plead with the great God of heaven to cause us to live again! May our prayer be like Psalm 85:6!

1. The Prayer for Revival- “Wilt thou not revive us again”
2. The Prayer for Rejoicing- “that thy people may rejoice in thee”