

CAN THESE BONES LIVE? FEBRUARY 14, 2021

EZEKIEL 37:3

No one is exempt from experiencing the emptiness and hopelessness that comes from shattered hopes and dreams. The valley of dry bones represents lifelessness. In life, people can be categorized as bones:

- Wishbones – wishing for better things but not moved to do what’s necessary to bring it to pass.
- Jawbones – those who talk a lot, but their walk doesn’t quite line up with their talk.
- Lazybones – no initiative to get a job done or do something helpful.
- Funny bones – those who don’t take the things of God seriously.
- Backbones – the workers that get things done and support the work of God
- Dry bones – death, despair, despondency, hopelessness: Jairus’ daughter; Lazarus; widows’ son!

CAN THESE BONES LIVE - EZEKIEL 37

V1-2 – Imagine the scene. He’s in a dry desert surrounded by thousands of sun-bleached, very dry bones. **NUMBERS 19:16** What happened? Why aren’t they buried? Ezekiel is now unclean.

V3 – Ezekiel knew the power of God, but he also knew God had to give the word. He knew only God could bring life out of death. He doesn’t say “no”, even though naturally speaking “it’s impossible!” “You know” he says.

V4 – “Prophesy to the dry bones.” He’s unclean, no one is there to listen. People can be distracted, texting, even sleeping, but dead, decayed, decomposed, and dried out?

V5-8 - Ezekiel preached the message God gave him. He knew the power of God’s Word and preached it with authority. Now he’s standing among bodies with no breath in them.

V9-10 – Let’s picture this: he preached to dry bones; there was no capacity to hear, understand, believe or act on his message; he preached to the wind; life came into these lifeless bodies. What power!

THE BREADTH OF GOD

- Brings life: **GENESIS 2:7**; Enlightens **2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NIV)**; creates **PSALMS 33:6**; regenerates **JOHN 3:7-8**
- It’s not that God did it, it’s how He did it: He didn’t snap His fingers or wave a wand. He told a man to speak to the bones and wind. **ISAIAH 55:11**

THE ANOINTED WORD – JOHN 5:25

- “Dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord.”
- “Lazarus, come forth.”
- “Damsel arise.”
- “Young man, arise.”
- “Tabitha, arise.”

LESSON TO LEARN

1. Dry times can come to anyone
2. God wants us to express our belief.
3. A word from God is necessary.
4. The Spirit’s power is necessary.
5. Nothing is beyond what God can do.
6. Cooperation is absolutely necessary.