

Can Dry Bones Live?

Ezekiel 37

EASTER SUNDAY

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livinghopechurch.net

“The secret of a believer’s holy walk is his continual returning to the blood of Christ and his daily communion with a crucified and risen Lord. All divine life and all precious fruits of it, pardon, peace, and holiness, spring from the cross of Christ and His resurrection.”

– **Horatius Bonar**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! He is risen! What a glorious Resurrection Day! This morning is a message about how the Resurrection of Jesus Christ changes our lives. Open your Bible to **Ezekiel 37** The title of our message this morning is “Can Dry Bones Live?”

Feeling Like a Stranger

Have you ever felt like a stranger? Have you ever felt out of place? I have. I moved from Chicago to **Louisiana**. I learned how to say “y’all.” I learned how to eat jambalaya. I tried to learn to eat grits, but I just couldn’t. I joyfully learned to eat crawfish! I even took a class in French – *Parlez-vous français?* Do you speak French?

We’ve all felt out of place. I remember when my mom died. I felt out of place. My father was in Chicago, and my mother was gone.

I felt the same way again when we moved to **Spain**. I tried to fit in but I was out of place!

When I came to know Jesus, I knew I’d never feel at home in this world ever again. This world is not my home. I’m just a’ passin’ through!

This place is a place of sickness and death and funerals and sadness. But our Lord calls us to life! He calls us to a place where Jesus has conquered sin, death and hell. It is by the power of the resurrection that God will wipe away all our tears.

A Proclamation of Hope to the Hopeless

This morning’s message is a proclamation of hope to those of feel they have no hope. Sometimes we feel that we are never going to recover from bad decisions in life. Some have made bad financial decisions. Others have made bad family decisions. All of us have sinned and made bad moral decisions.

But Jesus has come to redeem us out of this mess! He was dead, but now He lives forevermore!

Miracle Needed

Look at Ezekiel 37. Ezekiel comes to the Valley of Dry Bones. Ezekiel was a prophet during the exile. Remember that God’s people have been taken to Babylon as part of God’s judgment against their sins.

The people of Israel needed a miracle. Their armies were dead and defeated in a valley that was a cemetery. There was no hope. They were taken captive. Listen, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead to set the captives free!

Now today is Easter Sunday. This is a day to give hope where there is no hope. This is the day we celebrate our Lord's resurrection from the dead.

- Perhaps you have children who are wayward, and you need a miracle.
- Perhaps it's your marriage. You've lost hope.
- It could be that you are lonely. So lonely. You don't know what to do.
- Or maybe you're overwhelmed with life. You're trying to be the best mom, and there's never any rest. Never any breathing room. There's a Mack truck on your chest and you can't breathe.
- Maybe it's your job. You are not happy there.
- It could be your health. You suffer daily. You are feeling weaker and weaker.

What's the answer? I believe the answer to all of these things that make us feel helpless is found in Ezekiel 37. Here we find the blazing center of where life comes from.

A Dress Rehearsal

In Ezekiel 37 we find, 600 years before the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a dress rehearsal. Ezekiel receives a vision of the true Israel being brought to life in the New Covenant times. We can imagine Pentecost and the Holy Spirit reviving a dead Israel. We can imagine the Spirit-filled church spreading like the wind to the four corners of the earth, proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us consider this Old Testament dress rehearsal of resurrection!

Holy Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-10, “The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

Can Dry Bones Live?

Some of you are asking this about your own life. Some of you feel so dead. Some of you are alive on the outside, but you are dead in your sins on the inside. And you are asking: “Can these dead bones live?” Hear the answer – you cannot live a meaningful life outside the life-giving resurrection power of Jesus. You can try to control your life, but it won't work. You can

try to change your circumstances. It won't work. You can try to change your own heart – you are a slave to your depression or your anger or your lust. And all you see is dead bones in front of you.

And you say, “Oh, God, can these dry bones live?” And I want to tell you something. Yes! Yes! These dry bones can live!

Through the resurrected Christ, we can have fullness of life and fullness of God. Don't give up brothers and sisters – God is still working on you to conform you into the image of Christ! But we need to change our perspective.

Outline

Ezekiel gives us four scenes in the Valley of Dry Bones...

- A devastating **defeat**, Eze. 37:1-3.
- A life-changing **question**, Eze. 37:3.
- The keys to the **miracle**, Eze. 37:4-6.
- An unexpected **resurrection**, Eze. 37:7-10.

Transition: So we see the first scene... and it is a scene of death and utter defeat! It is a devastating defeat!

I. A devastating **defeat**, Eze. 37:1-3.

Ezekiel 37:1-2, “The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.”

No Meaningful Change without God's Help

The first scene, we see a defeated army. And the truth we get is: you cannot change your situation. In fact, changing your situation won't help. So often we try to change our circumstances to no avail. There is no real, meaningful change without God's help. Do you see this in the scene before us?

Without the resurrection power of Jesus Christ, we are nothing more than the living dead. We are a skeleton crew. Without Christ, we live in a valley of **death**. We are **dead** in our trespasses and sins.

Without the resurrection of Christ, we live in a valley of **depression** and **dryness**. here is a picture of these bones in some dark ravine, in some gloomy valley, in a place, not only of death and dryness, but a place of depression. Oh, outwardly, we laugh; outwardly, we may be the time of our life. The reason people center their lives around vain pleasure is because they are depressed.

Did you know that nobody has any joy apart from Jesus? He may have happiness, but he doesn't have real joy apart from Jesus. Nobody has peace apart from Jesus. The Bible says, “There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked” (Isaiah 57:21).

It is a valley of **disjointed** bones. Life without Christ has no meaning. It's disjointed. But if we have experienced the resurrection of Christ, we know that as bad as life can get, “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image

of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Rom. 8:29-29). We are no longer the skeleton crew of death. Brothers and sisters, no longer are we living disjointed lives, but all things work together for good! God will use the good and the bad to make you stronger and conform you into the image of Christ!

Context: Military Defeat and Captivity

As we look in Ezekiel 37:1-10, we see the context of military defeat and captivity. We see the prophet of God standing in the valley of dry bones. Here the man of God is surrounded by death, hopelessness, and despair. As far as the eye can see there is only brokenness emptiness, death.

The date of this visionary experience is probably the 580s, when hope for the restoration of Israel was, from a human point of view, utterly hopeless. Israel was a defeated nation. It had been crushed militarily, its people had been separated from one another in exile, and it had suffered the inevitable result of its abandonment of the Lord. Alone, exhausted, discouraged, and impoverished, Israel was indeed as good as dead.¹

Are You Utterly Defeated?

Like this army there is something in your life in which you see that you are *utterly defeated*. You are in the valley of death.

So it was for the disciples at 9am on that Friday morning when Jesus was crucified. It was a valley of death. *Golgotha, with the Lord of Glory hanging there on a tree*, was a valley of dry bones for them. All their messianic dreams had died with Jesus Christ. All their hopes of eternal life had died.

Perhaps you are in that valley. You’ve been there. You may be in it right now. We know this valley.

- Dreams for family and life die here in this valley of death.
- Hope for the future dies here.
- Marriages die here.
- Hope for your children serving God die here.
- The smell of death is in the air, there is not one drop of moisture anywhere.

Maybe that’s where you are today. You yourself may be at this moment dead in your trespasses and sins. Or perhaps at one time your faith was strong, but now it seems all is lost. You feel too low and too sinful for God to save.

Well, I want to let you know that today, God can raise you from the dead. Today began as a day of death, but if you trust in Jesus, it can end in resurrection and life.

Without Resurrection Power You Can Do Nothing!

We need the *same power that raise Jesus from the dead* to dwell in us. **Romans 8:11** says, “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” The opposite is true as well. Jesus said in **John 15:5**, “Without Me, you can do nothing!” Nothing will change unless you have the new birth. Without Jesus, we are nothing but dry, dead bones!

Without Christ, we are sadly, “dead in our trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:3).

¹ Stuart, Douglas (2004-07-28). Ezekiel: Ezekiel (The Preacher's Commentary Book 20) (Kindle Locations 6443-6446). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

No Hint of Change

You may be in a place there is nothing to even hint that anything could possibly change. But God loves impossible situations, because when it turns around he gets all the glory.

I want to prophesy to somebody today who is facing an impossible situation. God said to prophesy and tell you He is going to turn it around.

It doesn't matter how impossible it looks to you. God can turn a valley of dry bones into a living army.

Vain is the Help of Man

- **Psalm 108:12**, “Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless” (NIV).
- **Jeremiah 17:5**, “Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.”

Holy Spirit Power Absolutely Necessary

The life-giving power of the Spirit is absolutely necessary for any meaningful change in your life. Without the operation and activity of the Holy Spirit's power instead of a mighty army of warriors ready for battle all we would have seen was a valley full of dead bodies with no power, no life.

Transition: Secondly, we behold another scene. We see a prophet and he's being asked a life-changing question by God.

II. A life-changing **question**, Eze. 37:3.

Ezekiel 37:3, “And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.”

The Promise is for You

Now this ancient prophecy concerns God's ancient people, Israel. **Eze. 37:11**, God tells the prophet: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.” You say, well this has no relevance to me then. I'm not an Israelite. Oh, it has everything to do with you if you are a child of God. **Gal. 3:29** says, “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Dead in Sins... Alive in Christ

Never forget the truths of **Ephesians 2:1-4**, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...” The wrath of God rested on you. You were awaiting judgment. Look at verse 4, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”

Without God you would still be dead in your trespasses and sins! Amazing grace!

A Divine Expectancy

With God, no matter what the defeat, we need to have a divine expectancy. God is the God of the impossible. And, I would say, if God has called, you should proceed with divine expectancy. Proceed with divine expectancy. Now, in verse 3, God says to Ezekiel, and Ezekiel says, "Lord, you know" (Ezekiel 37:3). And, He does know. And, the God who knows says, "I'm

going to bring life to them." He is the God of the impossible, and don't ever get in the business of saying what God will not do, and what God cannot do.

Turn to Jesus

This is Resurrection Day! Can these bones live? Can you change in any meaningful way apart from Christ? No! You cannot remove your death and sins yourself. You must turn to Jesus. You cannot change yourself.

Our merciful heavenly Father loved us when we were not capable of responding. We were dead and corrupted and rotten in our sin and stinking! We were "dead in the trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:3) that we were enslaved to. We were blind and deaf to God. But He came to us and healed our eyes and gave us ears to hear and a heart to perceive!

God loved us when all that was within us scorned God. When we were repulsive, sinful and rebellious in His sight, He could have judged us! He SHOULD have judged us.

"But God, being rich in mercy... loved us" (Eph. 2:4)! He loved us! "even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by **grace** you have been saved" (vs. 5).

You've Given Up Hope

I would say there are areas of our lives in which we have given up hope. I think of Barkeley Escareno. Barkeley and Amelia, come up here would you? This mother prayed for this boy for years! Some of you gave up hope for Barkeley. But not Amelia. And now this young man is born again!

Some of you have given up hope. And you won't even ask the question: "Can these bones live?" You won't ask it because you are afraid of rejection. You've been rejected and rejected and you don't want to suffer that from God. You won't ask God.

Doubting Thomas

You are like one of one of Jesus' disciples, Thomas. He didn't dare believe that the Lord he had seen crucified was now alive after three days.

Remember what Thomas said? Look over at John 20. Thomas was told the Lord was risen, and remember Thomas said in **John 20:25-28**, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." 26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

The Remnants of a Great Defeat

The children of Israel saw their circumstances and saw only a valley of dry bones. This valley was a memorial of a great defeat in the past for Israel. God gives them a promise that Israel will live, and that they will resettle the land. That took place of course under Nehemiah. The Jewish nation repopulated Palestine. But they did more than that. They came together under a resurrected Messiah at Pentecost, and were filled with the Spirit of the Lord! They were born again! And they took the worship of God from within the borders of Israel to the whole earth! All they saw was defeat, but God was going to do something great.

There is Hope in the Most Hopeless Defeat

Total defeat, not born-again. Perhaps you as well look at your life and all you see is defeat. Maybe you are not a born-again Christian here today. You are religious, but you really don't walk with God. You pray, but Christ is not the center of your life.

Defeat in your life. You see defeat in your life. You ask yourself, "Can these dry bones live?" Perhaps you have suffered abuse in your life. Maybe you've been verbally abused and bullied. Perhaps it's gone beyond that, and you feel used up and thrown out. You are not going to find help by trying to fix yourself. That's like trying to do surgery on yourself. But there is hope for you in the resurrection of Christ.

Defeat in your family. Today, some of you see defeat in your families. Your children know the Word, but they don't know the Lord. Their friends are taking them the wrong direction. As a mom or dad, you are losing your son or your daughter, and you are grieving. What's the answer? You can't legislate character change. You can't pass a rule that say your children need to be virtuous. Virtue comes from an inward change of the heart through Jesus Christ. What I'm saying is that there is hope in the resurrection. Mom and Dad, the only one who can change your kids is Jesus Christ. There is power in His resurrection.

A Life-Changing Question

I present to you a life-changing question. Ask God, "Can these bones live?" It's a question that the disciples must have asked. They knew the promises Jesus had given to be raised on the third day. He promised that His dry, dead bones would live.

And so you must pray and ask for yourself: Can I live? Can my dead bones live? Can my spouse's dry bones live?

The Doctrine of the New Birth

This is the doctrine of the new birth. That is, it is only when JESUS lives in us that we really begin to live. If you are born again, then you share's St. Paul's confession of the new birth:

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Transition: Now thirdly, we behold another scene. We hear the voice of God instructing the prophet to do certain things. These things are almost like keys. When he uses these keys, there is life. Here is the key to the mystery. How do you and I have lasting change in our lives? Look at these keys to this miracle of resurrection. These are what theologians call "*means of grace*." These keys are preaching, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

III. The keys to the miracle, Eze. 37:4-6.

Ezekiel 37:4-7, "⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord."⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

No Life Until the Wind Blows

Yes, bones are connected. Yes, skin and sinews and flesh have come upon the bones. But there is no life in them until the wind begins to blow. When the wind begins to blow everything changes. Life comes. The Spirit of power that raised our Lord from the dead must live in you and me if any meaningful change is to take place.

How do these bones live again? God uses three means to accomplish it.

1. The Preaching of the Word

Ezekiel is told to ‘prophesy’ to the wind (37:4; literally: ‘preach God’s Word’), and does as he is told (37:7). My dear brother and sister, there is no meaningful change without the tender application of God’s Word. If you want to experience **the resurrection power of Jesus Christ**, you must open this book!

There is life in this book. There is power. It is not like any other book. You read other books. This book reads you. Man, I want to tell you this: There is power in the Word of God. It is alive and it is powerful. **Heb. 4:12**, “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” The Word of God will lay you bare and get deep down and cut you to the heart!

We not only need to preach the Word to others, but first we must preach and prophecy the Word of God to ourselves. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). The Word of God will build faith in your soul.

2. The Prayer of God’s Servant

God urges Ezekiel to call upon the ‘breath’ to come and breathe into the slain. **Eze. 37:9**, “Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

As we have already seen, the passage uses the words ‘wind,’ ‘breath’ and ‘spirit’ interchangeably. Even though God may have promised something, he invariably links the promise with the prayers of his people.

James said, “You have not because you ask not.” J.C. Ryle said, “Our problem is not mainly unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”

Matthew 7:7-8, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

Listen, Jesus Christ is alive. He “ever lives to make intercession” for us (**Heb. 7:25**).

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit

Yet it is not God’s Word and prayer alone that can help us. Dead preaching kills, dead teaching kills, dead singing kills. Only the Anointing of the Holy Spirit makes alive.

Eze. 37:5, “Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” (for ‘breath’ we can read ‘Spirit’). **Romans 8:11** (NLT), “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”

Without the activity and operation of the Holy Spirit’s power instead of a mighty army of warriors ready for battle all we would have seen was a valley full of dead bodies.

We can put it together, we can dress it up, we can put everything in its right place, we can sing the right songs, preach the right sermons, we can turn the lights down low and create the perfect worship climate (but if we don't have the life giving anointing, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit we have nothing.

The word Spirit. The word 'spirit', in both Hebrew and Greek, is a picture word. It pictures breath breathed, or panted out, as when you blow out candles on a birthday cake or puff and blow as you run.

The picture is of wind made to **move vigorously, even violently**. The new birth is like the wind (according to John 3) – it is unseen, yet you see the effects of it. The Spirit of God goes to the unseen places of the heart, and does heart surgery. The cutting away of sin is vigorous and even sometimes violent. Repentance is messy. Faith is messy. The Spirit blow! And we say, come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove! Come in Your power! Raise up these dry bones and let them live!

J.I. Packer says it this way, "The idea in Ezekiel 37 is that the Person of the Holy Spirit is letting energy loose as an executive force invading, exercising power, bringing about life by His regenerating activity."² When 'Spirit' is used of the Holy Spirit, it is meant to convey the powerful effect of his work. His work as Spirit, though mysterious, **is powerful and visible**.³

Oh, the power of the Spirit of God. This is what we need: preaching, prayer and the power of the Spirit of God.

The Ingredients for Any Move of God

These are the ingredients of any work of revival by God. **Preaching, Prayer, and the Power** of the Spirit! This is what occurred at Pentecost, when 3,000 people came to faith as the result of preaching (Acts 2:14–39), prayer (Acts 1:14) and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 2:18, 38).⁴ As J.I. Packer said, "The only organizer of revival is God the Holy Spirit."⁵

IV. An unexpected resurrection, Eze. 37:7-10.

Ezekiel 37:7-10, "So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army."

We Preach and Pray, but God Does the Work

There are people that today are dead in their trespasses and sins, but God is going to save them. Think of that person you've been praying for to be saved. Imagine them singing with all their might for the glory of Jesus. You pray for that. You give the Word of God, and God does the work. 1 Cor. 3:6, "Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase."⁶

² J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit*, p. 57.

³ Thomas, 242.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 243.

⁵ Packer, 58.

⁶ Paraphrase.

A Commotion: There are Immediate Results

When God begins to move, there is a commotion. **Ezekiel 37:7**, “So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.” Ezekiel obeyed the Lord and gave the Word. Ezekiel’s obedience produced immediate results. There is a shaking, a noise, a commotion—a holy commotion. God disturbs those bones. I’ve seen bones get disturbed. Sometimes, they get mean when they get disturbed. You start shaking, rattling those bones around.

- Sometimes there is the commotion of rejoicing when the Word is preached!
- Sometimes there is the commotion of rioting or rejecting when the Word of God is preached!

Even before Ezekiel had finished (cf. Acts 10:44), he heard the “noise” of the fulfillment of God’s promise (Ezek 37:7). The bones came together and were clothed with flesh but they still were not alive (v. 8), but nonetheless, something was happening! There was a commotion.⁷

Dear brother and sister, trust the Word of God to do its work. It will raise sinners from the dead.

Isaiah 55:11, “so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

There is a Connection

After there was a commotion, there was a connection. Look: “and the bones came together, bone to its bone” (**Ezekiel 37:7b**). Things that were scattered began to coalesce. They began to make sense. There is a connection.

The new birth renews the mind. Things begin to make sense. Things that have been disconnected, and don’t seem to make sense, God brings it together; and things begin to form up, and come together in your mind. That’s a miracle of God. You begin to see. You begin to understand. There is a logical connection—a loud commotion, and a logical connection—as God begins to bring things together, and to make sense out of things that never made any sense to you before.

There is a Corpse

There is a body, but no life! Sometimes we apply the Word and give the Word, and though there is outward change, there is no inward change. That will come. Ezekiel found this out. **Ezekiel 37:8-9**, “And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.”⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”

Keep applying the Word! As Ezekiel preached to the “breath,” life entered these corpses, and they stood as a vast, living, reconstituted army (vv. 9–10).⁸

⁷ Cooper, L. E. (1994). *Ezekiel* (Vol. 17, p. 324). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁸ Ibid.

There is a Divine Completion

Ezekiel 37:10, “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

Phil. 1:6, “He who began a good work in you will complete it unto the day of Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion:

A Living Hope!

Peter writes to the “elect exiles” and says in **1 Peter 1:3**: “He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Aren't you glad that because of the resurrection, as bad as things might be, this is not our final home? We have a living hope in Jesus Christ being raised from the dead! We have hope!

No Hope Outside of Jesus

No other religion can offer this kind of hope.

Mohammed can only offer Allah, a god of war, and a god where there is no hope or assurance of eternal life. A god who degrades women and promises 70 virgins to those who die killing for Allah. So sad. Mohammed is dead and offers a fictional god and savior.

Hinduism offers over 300 Million gods. They offer a slight of hand salvation, saying that all ways lead to the truth. Yet they do not teach any hope of an afterlife. There is no heaven or hell, only karma and reincarnation. So sad. Krishna and all their man-made messiahs are dead and buried.

What of **Buddah** and **Confucius**? Dead and gone. You can visit their graves. None offered a way of salvation.

Alive Forevermore

But there is one who is alive. He has an empty tomb. Jesus is the only one who claimed to be the way to eternal life. No one else of any significance has offered such a thing. He said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**Jn. 14:6**). Jesus Christ is raised from the dead! He is our Living Hope!

He said, “I am He that lives, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death” (**Rev. 1:18**).

THERE IS HOPE IN YOUR TRIALS. THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR SINS! Jesus is alive!!