

The Resurrection and Reunification of God's People: Symbolized by a Vision of Dry Bones Ezekiel 37:01–14

The vision of dry bones:

A picture of God's power to give new life to the hopeless and to resurrect the dead, Isa 26:19

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| <p>a. The hopelessness of death seen in the dry bones</p> <p>1) The LORD led Ezekiel to walk all over the valley to observe the scene of bones and death</p> <p>2) The LORD asked an astounding question</p> <p>3) The prophet replied in faith: Only God knows</p> <p>b. The LORD's solution to the hopelessness of death</p> <p>1) First, the solution is the bones' (people's) hearing God's Word: It gives the promise of new life and the resurrection of the dead. Isa 26:19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will put muscle and flesh on the bones and cover them with skin • He will breathe life into them • He has one purpose: That they know He is the LORD | <p>1 The hand of the LORD was on 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."</p> <p>4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'</p> <p>5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.</p> <p>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.' "</p> |
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2) Second, the solution is the prophet's proclaiming God's Word, His promise

- The bones of each body came together when Ezekiel preached
- The prophet watched as muscles, flesh, and skin formed over the bones: But they were still dead

3) Third, the solution is the Spirit's giving and breathing life into the dead

- The prophet summoned (prayed for) the breath of life to enter the dead bodies
- The breath (Spirit of God) entered the dead bodies and they were given new life

c. The LORD's explanation of the dry bones

1) The dry bones represented Israel in captivity

2) The people felt hopeless, like dead corpses

3) The prophet was to proclaim God's wonderful promise to the hopeless

- He would resurrect them from the grave (exile)
- He would return them to the promised land

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. 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.

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, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"

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.

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

12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

4) The LORD would use the resurrection of Israel to stir the people to know that He alone is the LORD

5) The LORD would put His Spirit in the people

- They would return to the promised land
- They would then know that the LORD did exactly what His Word promised

13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

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.’ ”