

September 2017

From the Pastor



## Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones

One of the most memorable passages in the Bible is the vision of Ezekiel as he sees a valley of dry bones. Here is a portion of that vision:

*Ezekiel 37:3-5 <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. (ESV)*

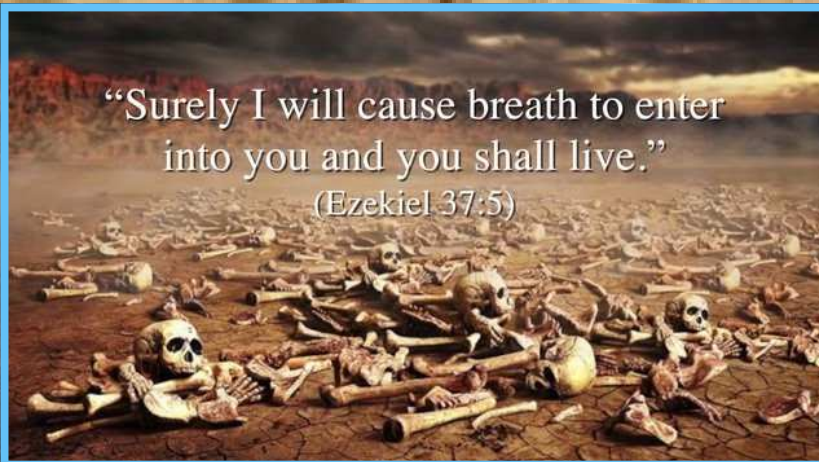
So, Ezekiel does as the Lord commands and prophecies over the bones. Read what happens.

*Ezekiel 37:7-10 <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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. (ESV)*

"Surely I will cause breath to enter into you and you shall live."

(Ezekiel 37:5)



God then tells Ezekiel the meaning of this vision. Look at what He said.

**Ezekiel 37:11-14** <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD." (ESV)

I love this story for several reasons. First, I think it would be cool to see this happen.

Another reason, it is a challenge to pastors. Erwin Lutzer, Pastor Emeritus at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, would take seminary students into a cemetery. They would walk up to a grave, and he would say to the students, "Preach as if you are calling these bones to come back to life."

A third reason I love this passage is because of what God is telling the nation of Israel and how it can apply to those who've turned their back on God. The nation of Israel turned their back on God, and it cost them. Their leaders had turned to false gods and worshiped idols. Their lifestyle was not at all what God had commanded. Therefore, God released them to their enemies and used their enemies to punish the nation. They became prisoners of war. God, through Ezekiel, told Israel that they would be restored as a nation. If you have turned your back on God and your world has fallen apart, know that God wants to restore you. Come back to God and understand that no matter how bad things are, God loves you and wants you to come back to Him. He wants to restore your life, no matter what has happened.

God can do great things, He can even bring life into a pile of dry bones. Allow God to work in your life.

In Him and for His glory,

