

II. How This Story is a Strength to You. (con't)

3. You have to see it as personal.

Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and **bring you up** from them. Ezekiel 37:13

Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and **I have done it**, declares the Lord.' "

Ezekiel 37:14

It is I myself! Touch me and see.

Luke 24:39

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. **Do you believe this, ...?**" John 11:25,26



Dan Wilvers- March 31st and April 1st
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The God Who Makes Alive!

Ezekiel 37:1-14 ¹The hand of the Lord was upon 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. ²He 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. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I 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.' " ⁷So 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.

⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then 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.' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O 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. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I 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.' "

This is God's Word

This vision of the dry bones is a picture of how Israel thought of themselves as a nation. *“Our bones are dried up.*

Verse 11 says, “... these bones are the whole house of Israel. They [the children of Israel] say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ”

I. How This Story is a Hope to You.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4

“If we as Christians have a hope only for this life, we are of all people most miserable.” 1 Corinthians 15:19

In Ezekiel's vision God gives this picture of a resurrection.

In verse 7 the bones come together into skeletons.

In verse 8 the skin comes together over their bodies.

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ ” Ezekiel 37:9

God is saying, *“Though you're dead in your sins Israel, I'm going to bring you back and give you back your hope.”*

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:21,22

II. How This Story is a Strength to You.

1. You have to hear the truth.

“Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! Ezekiel 37:4

But how can they call on God to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14

2. You have to believe the Gospel.

What is the Gospel?

Part A- You're a lost sinner in need of God's help.

They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’

¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O 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. Ezekiel 37:11,12

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4,5

Part B- Jesus was cut off in our place, so we could be accepted.

“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.’ Ezekiel 37:11

“He was cut off from the land of the living ...” Isaiah 53:8