

The God Who Saves

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Series: Topical

1. Verse 1 – 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.
 - a. Here we are introduced to the prophet. During a time of prayerfulness, the prophet is taken away and transported away from the Babylonian captivity to a valley of death.
 - b. He sent to
 - i. A valley – hot and desolate. A place of intense sun and heat.
 - ii. Immediately the prophet notices that the valley is full of bones.
 1. This valley is full of bones. The picture is of great death and hopelessness. Here lie millions of bones belonging to an exceedingly great number of what used to be a nation of people. It is a valley of death.
 2. It is a valley that consumes the dead to the fullest.
 - c. In verse 11 we find that these bones are the house of Israel. They were alive in the human sense but when it came to spiritual life, they were completely and utterly dead.
 - i. They walked, talked, got married, had lives but they were dead to the spiritual realm and to everlasting life.
2. Verse 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.
 - a. And he led me around among them – Here God wants the prophet, the man that speaks the message of God, to see and experience the horror of this valley. God wants the prophet to be awake to the death that surrounds him, that surrounds his people.
 - i. The prophet has to know the scope of death.
 - b. ...and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley –
 - i. The prophet is startled by the entire surface of the valley being covered in bones. He could not tell where one corpse started and the other ended. He is overcome.
 - c. ...and behold, they were very dry –
 - i. The prophet makes an observation as to the entirety of death in the valley.

- ii. The bones have been consumed to the point that there is nothing left, not even the marrow within the bones.
 - iii. The bones have been blanched and are devoid of the smallest part of DNA. The death in the valley is utter and complete.
 - iv. This is the state of every unbeliever.
 - 1. Your condition is hopeless.
 - 2. No self-help can fix your fundamental problem.
- 3. Verse 3 – And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."
 - a. Here the Lord asks the prophet a pretty straight forward question. Can these bones ever live again?
 - b. The prophet defers.
 - i. The prophet understands that there is no humanly possible way for the bones to ever live again. They are beyond any human help.
 - ii. The prophet also understands that he is speaking to the great God of the universe. The God who creates out of nothing. Genesis 1.
 - iii. The prophet answers the Lord with the only answer which makes sense. Only you know whether you will give these bones life again. It is beyond the realm of human possibility.
 - iv. Notice that this whole thing is a picture (a vision).
 - c. So is salvation. It is beyond the realm of human possibility.
- 4. Verse 4 – Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
 - a. God decides to intervene and bring life.
 - b. He calls for the prophet to prophesy over the bones.
 - i. The prophet was supposed to speak the word of God to these bones.
 - ii. We see two things here
 - 1. It is in our obedient "prophesying" that God does His work.
 - 2. Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (ONLY)
 - a. Nothing else can bring life.
- 5. Verse 5 and 6 – 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."

- a. Only God can do the impossible
6. Verse 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.
 - a. When God purposes to save someone through the preaching of His word, the results are astounding and quite simply, miraculous.
 - b. Imagine the terrifying scene that the prophet beholds.
 7. Verse 9 – Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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."
 - a. The army stands but without the breath of God they are still dead. God has to breathe life into the corpses of lifeless men. Salvation is solely a work of God.
 - b. **Genesis 2:7** then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
 - c. **John 20:22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
 8. Verse 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.
 - a. Oh that God would breathe on this place today.
 9. Verse 11 – 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.'
 - a. Israel was correct. Their situation, spiritually, was hopeless.
 - b. They were dead and nothing they could do could do would bring life.
 10. Verse 12 and 13 – 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. (13) And you shall

know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.

- a. God opens the graves.
- b. God grants life.
- c. God brings us home.

11. Verse 14 – 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."

- a. God places His spirit.

12. Benediction –

- a. **Matthew 19:25-26** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" (26) But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."