

SERMON OUTLINE - SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

Can Dry Bones Live?

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

INTRODUCTION: *That old gospel song --
“Dem Bones, dem bones, dem dry bones”*

I. THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, IN A VISION, WAS IN A VALLEY OF DRY BONES (Ezekiel 37)

- A. The vision was that of the utter destruction & hopelessness of Israel
- B. Imagine yourself in one of the large military cemeteries with all the white crosses . . .
- C. The voice of God asks – **“Can these bones live?”** (v.3)

II. CAN ‘DRY BONES’ LIVE . . . CAN DEFEAT & HOPELESSNESS TURN INTO VICTORY & HOPE?

- A. Ezekiel says – **“O LORD God, You Know...”** (v.4)
- B. We would say – *“I don’t see a way, God... maybe You know a way.”*
- C. In his vision, Ezekiel saw the ‘dry bones’ come back to life with flesh & blood
- D. There was hope for Israel & there is hope for us... even when all seems hopeless



III. WHAT IS GOD’S ‘DRY BONES’ MESSAGE TO US TODAY?

- A. Who of us have not “stood beside the grave” of our hopes & dreams?
- B. We cry out with Ezekiel – **“Can these ‘bones’ live?”**
- C. Along with Ezekiel, we are realistic – sometimes, humanly speaking, there is no hope
- D. But with Ezekiel we hope in God – **“O LORD God, You know...”** (Matthew 19:26, Luke 1:37)
- E. And with Ezekiel, we do what God asks & watch Him take care of all the details (vv. 5-10)

IV. GOD INDEED PROVIDES ‘BREATH FOR DRY BONES’!

- A. He gives us ‘breath’, ‘spirit’... *“a second wind”!*
- B. In the death & resurrection of our Lord Jesus, we ‘dry bones’ are given new life! (Romans 8:11)
- C. Our God specializes in hope, in new life, in *“second winds”*

CONCLUSION: *‘Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones ... hear the Word of the LORD!’*