

Can These Dry Bones Live?
St John Bible Study – April 23, 2020, Pastor Charles A. Hall

Based on the book of Ezekiel in the Old Testament, Ezekiel was both a Priest and a Prophet. As a Priest, Ezekiel was taken captive during the Babylonian captivity and later received the call from God to the office of Prophet sometime after 593 BC. Initially, God called Ezekiel to pronounce judgment on the rebellious nation of Israel who was not in exile in Babylon.

There are three purposes or themes in the book of Ezekiel (1) to explain that Judah must be judged for their acts of disobedience (2) to encourage the remnant of Judah through prophecies of its glorious future restoration and (3) to emphasize the preeminence of God's glory and character.

Later, God called Ezekiel again; this time to pronounce that Israel would be restored and returned to the land that God had promised Abraham and that God would regenerate and resuscitate Israel at a later date.

The valley of the dry bones is found in the 37 chapter of Ezekiel; however, in order to gain an understanding of this prophecy, you must first read chapter 36 in its entirety. In this prophecy, God transports Ezekiel in a vision or dream to a valley of dry bones, then God commands these dry bone to live again by connecting together with sinew (a tendon that connect muscles and bone) then God commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the wind and say, "...Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live" (**Ezekiel 37:9**) and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, and exceeding great army. Then God said unto Ezekiel that these bones represent the whole house of Israel.

Then God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel that the bones represent the people of Israel who are in Babylonian exile 596 BC, and then God commands the prophet Ezekiel to carry this prophecy to the people of Israel in order to revitalize and resurrect them back into the promise land that God had given their fathers.

God states that He is not doing this for the house of Israel but for His name sake "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went" (**Ezekiel 36:22**). God had scattered them among the heathen because of ways, they had profaned God holy name and worship idols, and defiled their own land by their ways and doing.

The vision or the prophecy of the dry bones symbolizes Israel's death and resurrection, which has three Phases:

1. The new awaking of the people, or the resurrection of the dead
2. The reunion of the splitting of the Kingdom from North (Israel) and South (Judah) into 1
3. The emerging Kingdom is now strong enough to defend themselves.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, (2) And shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and thy soul; (3) That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 Behold, the day come saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the House of Judah: (32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my

Can These Dry Bones Live?
St John Bible Study – April 23, 2020, Pastor Charles A. Hall

covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord.(33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Romans 11:25-26 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. (26) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, THERE SHALL COME OUT OF ZION THE DELIVERER, AND SHALL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB:

Isaiah 59:20-21 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, said the Lord. (21) As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, said the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.