

When God Visits the Grave Yard

Scripture: Ezekiel 36: 16 - 19

Eze 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones;

The hand of the Lord:

2Sa 24:14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

1Ki 18:46 and the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1Sa 5:6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

Jdg 2:15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

and set me down in the midst of the valley:

- God took Ezekiel in a place a valley. God was the one that brought Ezekiel.
- It is apparent that God had his eyes on this place.

and it was full of bones:

- bones were covering the entire valley, something sudden and dramatic took place for so many bones to be in one place.
- The bones were the only thing mentioned in the valley.
- It is one thing to visit a cemetery where there are tomb stones but an open grave no one likes to see, even worse a valley of dry bones.

Eze 37:2 And he caused me to pass by them round about: and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and lo, they were very dry.

And he caused me to pass by them round about: take a very good look at these bones. He walked right through this valley filled with bones.

in the open valley: they were not buried or covered by anything they were scattered all over the on the face of the valley.

there were very many: it is apparent that they died suddenly, they were slain by something or someone.

They were very dry: dead for a long time

Eze 37:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

Son of man:

Job 25:6 How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?

Psa 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Mat 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Can these bones live?What a question!

thou knowest: you know Lord; for I am but a child in this matter.

Eze 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy over these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Prophecy over these bones:Ezekiel a type of Christ stood ready to do Christ biddings.

***naw-byoaw'**: A primitive root; to *prophecy*, that is, speak (or sing) by inspiration (in prediction or simple discourse): - prophecy (-ing) make self a prophet.*

Say unto them: Preach unto them; they have no ears, they have no eyes, they have no mouth, and they have no brains, they are LONG DEAD.

O ye dry bones:God identifies them by the condition that they were in – Dry Bones.

What were the conditions of the bone: **Rev 3:17** *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art the wretched and*

*miserable and poor and blind and naked: **Rev 3:1** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

hear the word of the LORD: When God says HEAR it doesn't matter who He is talking to; whether they have ears, eyes, mouth, brain, or dead or alive.

***Joh 6:63** It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life.*

***Isa 42:18** Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. **Isa 42:19** Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant? **Isa 42:20** Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.*

Eze 37:6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

What would have been the result if man was doing this work?

When God does the work it is well done. **Gen 1:31** *And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold an earthquake, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

Noise and behold an earthquake: there was shaking, God was doing a mighty work and there was a shaking.

Notice when the earthquake (shaking) takes place when the bones were still dry.

What caused the earthquake? The words of the Prophet – the testimony of Jesus Christ.

[SLIDE 2]

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this will cause a shaking among God's people. The testimony of the True Witness has not

been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance, and all that truly receive it will obey it and be purified. {CCh 338.5}

the bones came together: the shaking brought about a coming together of the God's people, first it starts individually, then as family, then church.

bone to his bone: the shaking is going to try every bone in your bodies.

Eze 37:8 And I beheld, and lo, there were sinews upon them, and flesh came up, and skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

Sinews, flesh, skin: it almost as though God started a reformation – Health, dress, Sabbath Reform, education reform, outpost, in post, literature work etc.

but there was no breath in them: they appeared to be alive externally, but they were still dead.

[SLIDE 3]

Without the Holy Spirit, without the breath of God, there is torpidity of conscience, loss of spiritual life. Many who are without spiritual life have their names on the church records, but they are not written in the Lamb's book of life. They may be joined to the church, but they are not united to the Lord. They may be diligent in the performance of a certain set of duties, and may be regarded as living men; but many are among those who have "a name that thou livest, and art dead." {4BC 1166.1}

[SLIDE 4]

Unless there is genuine conversion of the soul to God; unless the vital breath of God quickens the soul to spiritual life; unless the professors of truth are actuated by heaven-born principle, they are not born of the incorruptible seed which liveth and abideth forever. Unless they trust in the righteousness of Christ as their only security; unless they copy His character, labor in His spirit, they are naked, they have not on the robe of His righteousness. The dead are often made to pass for the living; for those who are working out what they term salvation after their own ideas, have not God working in them to will and to do of His good pleasure. This class is well represented by the valley of dry bones Ezekiel saw in vision (RH Jan. 17, 1893).

Eze 37:9 Then said he unto me, **Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.**

Prophecy unto the wind: what generally comes with wind? A change of weather it either brings precipitation or it takes it away.

This was not a wind of strife, or of confusion. This wind was the mighty movement of the Holy Spirit.

Breathe upon these slain:the reform did not bring them life, because they were still dead - slain.

The breath of God does something to the dead soul:

***Eph 4:26** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: **Eph 4:27** Neither give place to the devil. **Eph 4:28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **Eph 4:29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **Eph 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. **Eph 4:31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**Eph 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Galatians 5:16 -26 the Dead and Living condition

[SLIDE 5]

Are you in Christ? Not if you do not acknowledge yourselves erring, helpless, condemned sinners. Not if you are exalting and glorifying self. If there is any good in you, it is wholly attributable to the mercy of a compassionate Saviour. Your birth, your reputation, your wealth, your talents, your virtues, your piety, your philanthropy, or anything else in you or connected with you, will not form a bond of union between your soul and Christ. Your connection with the church, the manner in which you brethren regard you, will be of no avail unless you believe in Christ. It is not enough to believe about Him; you must believe in Him. You must rely wholly upon His saving grace. {FLB 94.4}

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me; and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Breath came into them: the Spirit took control of them

And they lived: they are no longer dead, without the live giving energy of the Holy Spirit we are dead.

We need a revival of primitive Godliness. God spirit must take full control.

An exceeding great army: this church militant will be the church triumphant

[SLIDE 6]

The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and he longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from his countenance, and his conduct was characterized by grace, humility, truth, and love. Every member of his church militant must manifest the same qualities, if he would join the church triumphant.

Eze 37:11 Then he said unto 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 clean cut off.

The whole house of Israel: the entire church is a GRAVE YARD.If this is the condition of Church then what would be of those outside.

They say: the have come to the realization there true condition.

What brought them to this realization?God has to visit the grave yards of our heart before we can come to a realization of ourselves.

*How will he visit this grave yard?*Through the writings of the prophets.

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

I will open graves:this suggests we are locked up;we are held captive by sin and the devil.

Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying, Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; **Isa 14:17** *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners? **Isa 14:18** All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

Come out of your graves:God is calling you he saying come ye up and out of our graves.

bring you into the land of Israel:God wants to bring us to the land of promise.

Eze 37:13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people.

And ye shall know: this is not head knowledge but as Adam knew Eve.

- We can't truly say we know God until we are born again.**Joh_10:14** I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

Come up out: Act_8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

***Jos 4:16** Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they **come up out** of Jordan.**Jos 4:17** Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, **Come ye up** out of Jordan.**Jos 4:18** And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.**Jos 4:19** And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho.*

Eze 37:14 And I will put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

I have spoken it:***Isa 55:11** So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Perform it:***Php 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

***1Th 5:23** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**1Th 5:24** Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*