

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

- Introduction:
1. The Old Testament was written for **our** learning (Romans 15:4).
 2. God has taught many wonderful lessons in some rather unusual ways.
 - a. Hosea was told to marry a harlot (Hosea 1:2).
 - b. Naaman was told to dip in the Jordan (II Kings 5:10).
 - c. Moses was told to make a brazen serpent (Num. 21:4-9).
 - d. Ezekiel was told to lay on his left side for 390 days (Ezekiel 4:4-8).
 3. Ezekiel 37 introduces us to another rather unusual lesson that God taught through the prophet Ezekiel.
 4. This lesson is designed to ascertain several lessons from Ezekiel's experience.

I. THE HISTORICAL BACKDROP

- A. (Ezekiel 37:1-14).
- B. Ezekiel was taken into a valley full of dead men's bones.
- C. God asked Ezekiel if those bones could live.
- D. Ezekiel's response was, "***O, Lord God, You know.***"
- E. God then instructed Ezekiel to go preach to those bones.
- F. When Ezekiel did as commanded, the bones took on ligaments, muscles, and flesh.
- G. After preaching more, the bodies became alive again.
- H. Contextually, the point of this experience was to inform Israel that God could raise them up out of their spiritual graves and restore life to them once again.

II. PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM (EZEKIEL 37)

- A. **One Needs To Obey God, Regardless.**
 1. Ezekiel's instruction did not seem to be a very rational thing to do.
 2. But God commanded it, and it needed to be obeyed.
 3. There are yet many commands that give people problems today because they seem to lack explanation.
 - a. Baptism (Acts 2:38).
 - b. The Cross (I Corinthians 1:18).
 - c. The Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22-25).
 4. (Jeremiah 10:23) It is not within a man to direct his own steps.
 5. (Isaiah 55:8-9) God's ways are not always our ways.
- B. **Nothing Is Impossible With God.**
 1. There is no hopelessness with God.
 2. Ezekiel preached to a bunch of dry bones and was successful.
 3. We need to preach and let the gospel do its work (Romans 1:16).
 4. (I Corinthians 3:5-6) We are to plant and water while God will take care of the growth.

5. Look at what God did with Paul (Acts 22:3-5).
- C. **Ezekiel Preached What He Was Told To Preach.**
1. (Ezekiel 37:7) *"I Prophesied as I was commanded..."*
 2. (Jonah 3:2) *"Preach the preaching I bid you..."*
 3. Would they have had results if they had preached something else?
 4. (II Timothy 4:1-5) Preach the **"Word"**.
 5. A *"watered-down"* gospel that appeals to social and recreational concerns will not convert the lost.
 6. (I Peter 4:11) Speak the oracles of God.
- D. **There Is A Need For Self Examination.**
1. Could we be like those dead, dry bones of Ezekiel?
 2. Could we look alive outwardly, but in reality be dead (Rev. 3:1)?
 3. Israel was dead in their graves, but was promised revival by God if they turned back to Him.
 4. This is exactly the message that is needed today.
 - a. Remember, Repent, and Return (Revelation 2:5).

- Conclusion:
1. We today, have a seemingly impossible task, much like that of Ezekiel.
 2. We have been told to go preach the gospel of Christ to a dead world.
 3. May the lessons discussed tonight inspire us to do our part, and the power of God's word will do the rest.