

“CAN THESE BONES LIVE? [Part 4 - Conclusion]”

Pastor Mark Johnson

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REVIEW/INTRO: In Ezek. 37, God gave the prophet Ezekiel a vision of a valley of very many and very dry bones (vv. 1-2), which represent the people of God who are spiritually dry, hopeless and disconnected (v. 11). These bones did live, stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army (v. 11), which was a prophetic process - which is basically hearing and declaring what God is saying.

The dry bones went through five phases to become an exceedingly great army.

- I. The Bones Coming Together – Becoming Rightly Positioned (Ezek. 37:7).
- II. The Sinews Coming Upon the Bones – Becoming Rightly Related (Ezek. 37:6a, 8a).
- III. The Bones Being Covered with Flesh – Becoming Fully Functioning (Ezek. 37:6b, 8b).

IV. The Bones & Flesh Being Covered with Skin – Being Under Proper Authority (vv. 6c, 8c).

- A. The skin provides a protective covering for the other members so they can function safely.
 - 1. The skin exists to benefit the other members.
 - 2. The skin facilitates not restricts function.
 - 3. Without skin the other members would perish.
- B. The skin can represent the Biblical mandate to be under proper authority (Rom. 13:1-2).
 - 1. There's an authority dysfunction today – a spirit of rebellion vs. failure of those in authority.
 - 2. Adam & Eve's nakedness was covered with skin (Gen. 3:21).
- C. Being under authority brings the authority of Jesus into our circumstances (Matt. 8:5-13).
 - 1. The centurion understood authority, was under authority and in authority (vv. 8-9), which Jesus saw as faith (v. 10) which resulted in healing (v. 13).
 - 2. People are generally only as good *in* authority as they are *under* authority.

D. Characteristics of Proper Authority.

- 1. Exists for the benefit of those they lead.
- 2. Facilitates rather than restricts function.
- 3. Servant leadership (Matt. 20:25-28; Jn. 13:1-16).
 - Don't be or follow a dictator leader (Matt. 20:25-28).
 - Jesus modeled servant leadership (John 13:1-16).

V. Breath Enters the Dry Bones – Being Filled with the Holy Spirit (vv. 5, 6, 8-10, 14 “breath” 7 times).

- A. The “breath” is God's Spirit (vv. 6, 14; Jn. 20:22)!
- B. The Heb. word can be translated as wind or spirit.
- C. The Spirit came preceded by a strong wind (Acts 2:1-4).
- D. With no breath, the body was still dead (Ezek. 37:7-8).
 - 1. The dry bones only came alive *AFTER* the breath – God's Spirit came into them (v. 10).
 - 2. Adam was dead flesh until God's breath (Gen. 2:7)!
 - 3. The body without the spirit is dead (Jn. 19:30; Ja. 2:26).
- E. Jesus is building His church (Matt. 16:18)/army (Ezek. 37:10) – a glorious church (Eph. 5:27)!

The Church/Army Jesus is Building:

CONCLUSION: The dry bones today can live! Let's prophesy to the dry bones to hear the word of the Lord and live! Let's prophesy for God's breath/Spirit to fill the dry bones!