The Valley of Dry Bones

Zanesville, OH | July 22, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Intro**:

* The Valley of Dry Bones is a vision experienced by Ezekiel in the 37th chapter of the exilic book. The vision finds itself in the heart of the gospel according to Ezekiel. It is a section of the book that paints no less than a glorious image of the days to be experienced under the Messiah. But before the Messiah the days were dark, hopeless and things seemed impossible to overcome and to get through.

**A Great Resurrection**

1. **The Chilling Scene: Ezek. 37:1-2**
   1. The point is that this valley is filled with bones and God wanted Ezekiel to see this for a specific reason. The valley was covered in numerous human bones (37:11) suggesting images of catastrophe and disaster.
   2. Ezekiel not only a prophet but also a priest, would have been alarmed and distressed by such a scene (as anybody probably would be) but more so because of the lack of any burial (Lev. 20:14; Ezek. 39:12-16). This image suggests a purposeful lack of burial.
   3. The dryness of the bones which is well emphasized illustrates that the corpses of these people was not a recent event but one that had taken place sometime before.
2. **Raised to Life– A New Creation: Ezek. 37:3-10**
   1. From a human stand point God’s question (*“Can these bones live?”)* seems absurd and certainly impossible. Conversely, from the standpoint of the all-powerful creator, nothing is impossible (Jer. 32:17). Ezekiel finds the middle ground and suggests only God knows.
   2. God’s seemingly impossible question however, invites the reader to consider what the slightest possibility of such a scenario might be. God wants us to think about what He can do in light of such a disastrous situation.
   3. Ezekiel, according to God’s will and by His power, speaks to the bones and they come together along with sinews, flesh and skin ultimately receiving God’s breath reminiscent of the creation account of man (Gen. 2:7). God raised an army to life from these dry bones purposefully using language to reflect a new creation.
3. **A Renewed Hope**
   1. The bones represent all of Israel (North and South) in their seemingly hopeless and dire states in exile. God was nowhere to be found and the days under the oppressors seemed without end.
   2. It was sin that led to the chilling scene in 1-2. It was sin that filled up that valley with all those dry bones. Israel and Judah’s sin led to separation from God and the covenant curses took its devastating course (Deut. 28:26; Psa. 79:1-3; Jer. 7:33; 8:1; 16:4; 34:20).
   3. While living in what seemed to be endless days of suffering, God made it known that bright days were coming for a people He would raise up. The graves would be opened and from death He would bring life (Rom. 8:2, 11).
   4. God took a situation that was hopeless and dark and would turn it into an age of light and everlasting hope. While a remnant would return to their land, this story finds it ultimate fulfillment in the Messianic age when the Christ came (Matt. 1:21; Tit. 3:4-7).

**From Disaster to Blessing We Learn…**

1. Sin creates a dark valley of death and despair where our bones go to dry without hope.
2. Jesus came to rescue us from that valley through His death on the cross.
3. If we come to Him, He will breathe new life into us making us new creatures with hope.