

Sermon on March 22,2026

“Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones”

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Theme

"The power of God can change even the most hopeless of lives and situations."

Ezekiel 37:1–14 NRSV

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may

live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Prayer

Let us pray! Heavenly Father thank You for using me in Your ministry! Thank You for guiding me thus far and granting me Your grace! Even now, Lord, you know the purpose for which I have come to You. Decrease me and increase you. Holy Spirit fill me with grace, anointing, and power so that I can preach Your word boldly and with authority. May the meditation of our hearts and the words of my mouth be pleasing to you our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Introduction\Opening

Lent is the season when we look inward. We sing songs like “Search Me, O God”. We examine our selves and sing, “Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy.” This sermon invites us to look inward as well.

I think it's safe to say that many, if not most of us, have skeletons in our closets – no pun intended. I believe that in many cases we all have some dead situations to deal with. Some unchecked boxes. We all have looked at our current situation and wanted a different outcome. So, I know that I am not alone. I know others have burning questions of self-doubt and curiosity.

Have you ever asked yourself about Gods place in your dead situation?

Do you have burdens such as guilt, shame and procrastination?

If you answered yes to any of these questions or know that you can answer yes on behalf of a loved one, then you're in good company. I believe God will speak to us all today about how to find life in our dead situations. Today's message is all about - the power of God can change even the most hopeless of lives and situations."

Maybe somebody came here to be encouraged. As a believer in Christ, I am here to tell you "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

Scripture Reference

Ezekiel was one of the major prophets of the Old Testament. He has been called by many the watchman of Israel and prophet of **hope!** Ezekiel's name means "God strengthens," and it's in that name that we can find the hope that many have lost or misplaced. Ezekiel's ministry was to speak to the scattered tribes about the future and of the hope and restoration in God.

For today, we jump into the text at a pivotal moment of Ezekiel ministry. One that correlates well for our journey today. A time where so much is happening around us that we worry about our future, just as Israel did. We are concerned about what's going to come and how things might change. (Stay with me because God is taking us somewhere.)

Ezekiel was a prophet in exile. He along with Daniel, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Haggiah, Malachi and others, preached and prophesied during a time of pre and post exile. They spoke of Israel judgement, the need for repentance, and the rebirth of a strong nation, and finally the resurrection of Israel which we know is a prelude to the coming Savior.

Ezekiel concerns had to do with a situation where even the prophet was confused about the vision that came from God about Gods people.

Ezekiel's journey was very similar to our own journey today. There were three waves of captivity that swept the people from Judah. In the first wave Nebuchadnezzar took a small group of select citizens to Babylon. This group contained Daniel and his three Hebrew Boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

A few years later, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and some ten thousand more citizens of Judah were forced into exile. It's In this second wave Ezekiel was washed up in the fight amongst freshly kings. Then around 586 B.C. another war was raised by Zedekiah who led an uprising against Nebuchadnezzar and Jerusalem suffered yet another detachment.

Throughout this entire ordeal Israel had been shaken, battered, bruised, disconnected and finally torn apart. In all the drama the people turned away from God. They thought that God no longer was speaking to them. That God didn't hear their calls.

Dry Bones

We're at a point of the text where Ezekiel received a vision from God and was led by the Spirit to a valley filled with dry bones. (He may have seen a real valley of dry bones after these rebellions.) The bones represented all of Israel. The bones were dry and lifeless and upon seeing them one might think that God has cast final judgement on these bones. The text is a healthy reminder that the bones also represent our issues, our problems and our concerns of today. (This passage might have been written to the exiles, but it is also written for us as well) Do we have:

The bones of family drama, medical issues, heartbreak and loneliness.

Dry bones of bad finances, unemployment and the driest bones of all, spiritual conflict.

The prophet was perplexed by this vision, and he couldn't escape its clutches. The prophet was presented with all the cares of his people in one big vision. But this is what God wanted for Ezekiel. Verse 2 of this text said that God "led Ezekiel around among them, and behold, there were very many" This encounter was no mistake of God. God presents this vision to Ezekiel so that he would experience God's power, remain mindful of His

surroundings, and witness how God could bring life into a dead situation.

Peter says 1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange was happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when they have stood the test they will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him".

As many of you may know, I volunteer two days a week as a chaplain at Memorial Hospital. I know God gave me this sermon so I could share these words with the patients at the hospital. What do you say to a man who has had a massive heart attack and is awaiting open heart surgery? Three weeks ago, I met such a man named Terry. He is a believer, yet he was most anxious about his future. I shared verses like this and we prayed together. We also celebrated last Friday when he was going home. I was so thankful that God had given me the words to help Terry through his "valley of dry bones."

Brother and sisters, in many cases God allows these challenges to speak to our needs and to present us with answers of hope and guidance from above. God has allowed some challenges to remain in our lives so that we must face him. So that he can ask us:

"Can these bones live?"

“Can I use these dead bones of hurt and heartache to show you that I can bring life into your dead situation?”

“Can I use these dead bones of tragedy that pushed you away from the church to show you that I can bring life into your dead situation?”

“Can I use these bones... you fill in the blank.”

The force of Ezekiel’s vision has brought hope to many down the centuries. Brothers and sisters, know that the power of God can change even the most hopeless of lives and situations. Remember, God presented this vision too Ezekiel so that he would witness the Creator’s power, acknowledge the mess we were in and witness the power the God of our salvation.

So, I ask you all, “Can these bones live?” The answer is Yes, because there is still life in your dead situation when we trust in God’s power, do the work God has given us to do and speak the life into the dead situation.

Points To Consider

1. Trust in the Power of God

Brother and sisters in order to find life in your dead situation you must learn to “Trust in the Power of God.” Know that without God we are insufficient. We cannot see the light of God, if the keeper of the light, doesn't reside in our hearts. Follow me in the text Ezekiel 37:1

(ESV) 1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

The first thing we need, to do is trust in God enough to fix our dead situations, is to have God inside of us.

Not near you.

Not around you.

But inside of you.

Ezekiel was led by the power of God into a dark situation to see what God wanted him to see. God was exposing the ministry of Ezekiel to something so challenging that he needed to isolate him in a vision so that he would understand what was being shown to him.

Brother and sisters, I believe that the text is teaching us that before we begin to revive a dead situation, we need to have the resurrecting life of the Holy Spirit in you. That's right, you must possess the Holy Spirit. The great people of You Version describes the Holy Spirit "is a regenerator" Jesus said in John 3:5, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." The Holy Spirit is an empowerer "Jesus told His early followers that when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they would be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49)."

God transporting Ezekiel by the Spirit to the valley of dead bones illustrates for us that we can't begin to fix our dead situations without the work of the Holy Spirit.

When God asked Ezekiel who can make these dry bones live? I am silly enough to believe the Holy Spirit said, "Move over Ezekiel, I got this and with boldness he said, "O Lord God, you know."

With the power of the Holy Spirit, you will not only be led into the midst of the valley but as we will soon find out, you will also be empowered in the valley. The text

teaches us however, that from verse 1 - 14 he got out the way and did exactly what God wanted him to do.

2. Do the Work He Called You To

In my studies I also found something interesting between verses 4 to 13. Admittedly, I was given multiple incites as to how to speak about this text. I must have written down this point three to four different ways and each time I pinned my words to the scripture there was a glaring hole between my thoughts.

The reason for the difficulty had a lot to do with me. I was about to deal with the portion of the text that caused me the most challenges. In many ways this was my dead situation! Here in the text God asks brother Ezekiel a rhetorical question and he answers with the most obvious answer. God says, "Can these bones live. Ezekiel response "O Lord God you know.

But what happens next could be viewed as the turning point of our dead situations.

In verse 4 of our text God speaks to Ezekiel and says, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them" ...now let's move down to look at the opening of verse 7 "So I prophesied as I was commanded. God gave him a command, and he did just what God told him to do.

Sarting at verse 5 we read, "thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord. So, I prophesied as I was commanded."

God has already spoken. He's given us directions, but we are still sitting in our dead zone. As I told one of the patients, "I lay my worries at the foot of the cross only to snatch them back up."

The Lord has asked us to step out in faith dealing with this matter but we're still at verse 4. Brother and sisters, that business idea, new job, dropping of a bad habit isn't dead, you're just stuck at verse 4. We are at the precipice of our blessings, however after receiving the gift, of knowing what it is God wants us to do, we didn't heed his command.

There is a process in rebuilding the dead situations. God is careful to not make things happen in a blink of an eye but to show that restoration has a process. As seen in verse 5, "Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live". - God needs to speak to your dead situation. "And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live. In the same way we will restore, cover and breathe life into our dead situation. Just as he did in the beginning, he will breathe in us so that our situations can live again. And we shall know that he is the Lord." - and to cap off the blessing we ought to give him praise and honor as he is rightfully due. We should stand up and give God praise for the life he has given us.

3. Speak Life Into your Situation

Lastly, I am reminded of what a wise person once said, "If you're gonna hang around people who only speak negativity and not life then you will become a negative person." Likewise, if we are going to trust in God and do

what he has commanded us to do, then we will also have to learn to speak life into all all situations. Not just the good stuff but even the things that cause you harm and know that the Spirit in you will see it come to pass.

Jesus says, “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.” Yes, you can do damage to yourself speaking about self-doubt. Speaking about how horrible life is. All these negative vibes begin to become reality.

The text says in verse 10 “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

The Spirit of God will bring life into a dead situation.

In the words from Sade Solomon, “Founder of Conversations Beyond”, If *you* want to change *your* perspective about *your* situations, *you* need to change how you speak about them.

Let us speak life to those dead situations in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to stop saying what you won't have, stop saying what you can't do, stop saying what *always* happens to you, and stop saying you don't know. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” Proverbs 18:21.

Let's put an end to self-destructing words. Are we ready to start speaking life to our LIFE? Let's Go, Let's Do it:

I can do this!

I am prepared for this!

I am fully equipped!

I have more than enough!

I am loved!

God has not forgotten about me!

I have not been overlooked!

I have purpose!

I am here for a reason!

I am not afraid!

I am unstoppable!

My dry bones will live.

My dry bones are alive

I am excited today, because God is so good!

Not only is He good;

He's faithful! He's merciful.

He's just. He is a loving God.

He's a deliverer.

He's a healer.

He is a very pleasant help in our time of need

His name is a strong tower that we can run to and be safe

There is life for your dead situation.

The bible says in Romans 8:31 that if God be for us who can be against us...

No matter what we are going through, know God still can resurrect our dead bones situation.

In the name of Jesus, stand on his Word and prophesy. Don't give up.

Let me tell you one more story from the hospital., literally it's about bones. Josie, a middle-aged woman. She is a diabetic. She was in the hospital because the x rays showed that three of her toes were infected and would need to be amputated. This was the first time she was faced with this decision. She and I prayed for God's healing. That was on a Wednesday. I came back on Friday and she was so excited. "Pastor Ada, I'm so glad to see you. It's a miracle, new x-rays and MRIs show that the bones of my three toes are not infected. Praise the Lord.

We have the ability to prophesy life into our dry bone situations, because we live in resurrection power, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayer

God of Hope. God our deliverer. If there are any of us going through the deep valley of what feels like death, grief, and dry bones, we pray that you will begin to give us imagination. An imagination of how you meet us, how you comfort us, of how you bring us together bone to bone and breathe of life in us somehow. Though some of us may feel cut off, break through our pain, our depression, our apathy or busy-ness, We pray that you will break through with a glimmering beam of light and hope that we lift our faces in the dark valley, to actually

find you there, hear you there and see you there
breathing life into our dry bones. Holy Spirit land on us
now, just as you landed in Ezekiel's valley of dry bones.
Amen