

Resurrection from Exile

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Ezekiel 37:1-14

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Synopsis:

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks and acts to bring hope to dry bones. The Lord says to us, whose bones are dry and brittle, and whose hope fades, I will breathe new life into you so that you may be restored, and so that you may know me.

I.

Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1 The valley was full of bones

Dry Bones:

- Ezekiel songs: Saw the Wheel, Dry Bones, Dem Bones
- Get the picture: American southwest, Baker/Death Valley
- My Mom = desert is *absence* not *presence*

Dry Bones: Metaphor for death, no hope

- metaphor for no hope in Israel
- metaphor today for us
- *Where are you today with regard to hope?
 - life and death?
 - disease?
 - job difficulties?
 - lose house?
 - portfolio dropped?

*This sermon is about *hope* for the *hopeless*

II.

Dry Hope

Ezekiel 37:11 They say, "Our bones are dried up"

How does one get from hopeless to hope?

- Just buck up!
- You need to get more hope in your life!

Dry hope in Israel: Talk about Ezekiel

- Who: priest in exile (bones a horror!)
- When: 6th cen, 598-571 BC in Babylon
- Where: now in Babylon (Ezek 1)
- What: Ezekiel 33:21-22 = 587 BC Destruction

Exile = alienated

- Away from Home
- What does this feel like?
- No house, no friends, strange food, strange language
e.g McDonalds in Heidelberg in 1984

Where are you alienated today?

- Not at home?
- house, friends, food, language
- longing to get home

Human race alienated:

- READ Genesis 3:1-19, 23-24
- Heb 11 (aliens desiring a better country)
- *This is where we live = East of Eden (Steinbeck)

III.

Living Hope

Ezekiel 37:10 Breath came into them, and they lived

Breath in Bible: Spirit

- Gen 2 = LORD God breathed into us to give life
- Psalm 104 = LORD breathed into all life

READ Ezek 37:1-14: story about Spirit and Bones

- God's Spirit gives life (Genesis, Psalms)
- God's Spirit gives new life (Ezekiel)

For exiles: going home

For us: new life

For human race

New Testament: 1Corinthians 15:44 = physical and spiritual body

- psukike* body = human spirit gives life to body
- pneumatike* body = God's spirit gives life to body

IV.

Meeting Life

Ezekiel 37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD

3x phrase (7, 13, 14) "I am Yahweh" occurs = 72x in Ezekiel

-What does it mean?

-Hebrew = have a relationship with LORD

e.g. Adam knew Eve, and she bore a son

Lord wants to:

-give you new life

-know you personally

Sing Song: Dem Bones Gonna Rise Again

*In Jesus Christ, God wants to revive you and know you