

## THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-10

INTRO: This vision took place during the time that Judah was in Babylonian exile, and was a prophecy of the restoration of Judah and Israel to the land of Palestine. It was fulfilled in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

We feel, however, that we may examine Ezekiel's vision and draw some illustrations that will be beneficial, even in our own day.

### I. THE AUDIENCE.

- A. Very many, vs. 2.
- B. Very dry (dead), vs. 2.
- C. Had no sinews to hold them together, no flesh, no skin, no life, vs. 6-7.

### II. THE PREACHER.

- A. Could have said, "Lord, I can't do anything for them."
- B. Could "preach a funeral sermon & leave."
- C. BUT notice his faith, vs. 3.
- D. He sat in their midst, vs. 1. Ezek. 3:15
- E. The Lord said, "Prophecy." The prophet obeyed.  
vs. 4, 7, 9-10

### III. THE RESULTS.

- A. Noise in the bones, but still no life, vs. 7-8.
- B. Prophesied more, bones came to life.

### IV. THE DIVINE EXPLANATION, vs. 11-14.

### V. THE FULFILLMENT. READ EZRA 1:1-3; 2:70; 6:17

- A. Explain why go backward in the Bible to find the fulfillment
- B. Explain that both captivities were in the same general terr.

### VI. SOME LESSONS TO US.

- A. People who ought to know the word of God need to be reminded of it. 2 Peter 1:12-13
  
- B. The preaching of God's word is the only thing that can bring life to a dead church or to a sinner dead in sin.

"This corpse has been a member of the church for 30 years."

C. The only ones who can hope to be saved are those who hear, believe & obey the gospel, Mark 16:15-16. Rom. 10:13-17; Mark 1:38

D. Where there is a lack of unity, the only remedy is preach the word. READ EPHESIANS 4:4-6, 11-15

E. Preachers have the responsibility of preaching the word. God will give the increase, 1 Cor. 3:3-7.

READ ISAIAH 55:8-11

Springhill, LA, May 5, 1974

Smyrna, Atlanta, TX, June 4, 1974 (meeting)

Jonestown, TX, June 25, 1974 (meeting)

La Porte, TX, November 30, 1975

Exton, PA, March 24, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 22, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 26, 1998

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 11, 2003