

**Long dead**

Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2014

# Can these bones live?

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will

# A renewed mind

make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 **I will** attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; **I will** put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” 7 **So I prophesied as I was commanded.** And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the

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breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. 11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My

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people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

# The internal chorus of dissent

- First - I can't talk to inanimate objects like wind and waves, dead people, fish and mountains - people will think I'm affected
- Second - what if I speak and nothing happens? - Moses stick remains a stick, saliva filled mud when washed doesn't heal, its the same place Jesus faced what if I commit myself to death and am not raised? — it seems like God wants me to make a choice, log in the books of heaven whose side I'm on, I choose before I see, I commit and believe and act in line with that faith
- not naive but sober assessment of all the realities

# The internal chorus of dissent

- What prophecies does God have in store for you?
- He's going to use someone to say it before it happens - God's words in our mouths have power
- Remember these are not the vocalization of preferences or long held opinions - remember you heard it here first, like I always say - these are the words that follow "Sovereign Lord, You alone know"
- By the Holy Spirit's power - are you open to Him moving you to perspectives you need to have - are you open to hearing His instruction - are you courageous enough to obey?

# The internal chorus of dissent

- The long dead, very dry bone places of our lives are usually tough places to visit
- We are surrounded by the enormity of the very many and the very dry
- Remember these are not the vocalization of preferences or long held opinions - remember you heard it here first, like I always say - these are the words that follow “Sovereign Lord, You alone know”
- By the Holy Spirit’s power - are you open to Him moving you to perspectives you need to have - are you open to hearing His instruction - are you courageous enough to obey?