

# WRITE IT DOWN!

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## **Can These Bones Live?**

*A Firm Foundation: God's Word in a Facebook Age*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sunday, June 22, 2008

# LISTEN UP!

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### **I. What the Word Gives**

- A. Ezekiel's Preaching
  - 1. The Scene (1-3)
  - 2. The Word (4-6, 9)
  - 3. The Result (7-8, 10)
- B. God's Speaking
  - 1. The Scene (Gen 1:1-2)
  - 2. The Word (Gen 1:3ff.)
  - 3. The Spirit (Gen 2:7)

### **II. What the Word Does**

- 1. Israel's hopelessness (11)
- 2. God's promise (12)
- 3. Israel's future
  - a. Israel's life (13)
  - b. Israel's worship (13)
  - c. Israel's land (14)

### **III. How we get it**

- A. Our hopelessness
- B. God's Promise
- C. Our future

# THINK IT OVER

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1. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 again. Make a broad outline of the flow of the narrative.
2. Review the setting of the scene in vv 1-3. Where does this text take place? What's significant about God taking Ezekiel all around the bones? What are we to understand in the dryness of the bones? What's surprising about God's question to Ezekiel?
3. Read Gen 1:1-2:7. Compare and contrast the original creation of humanity with Ezekiel 37:4-10. Why are the similarities between the two texts significant? What is God telling Israel through this prophecy?
4. What is Israel's state at the time of this prophesy? (v. 11) Why are they in such a desperate position? Explain how you might *feel* if you were an Israelite at that time & place.
5. How does God give life to the bones (vv.4-10)? What does the text say about Ezekiel's words? How will God give life to Israel (vv. 12-14)?
6. The Bigger Picture: Explain how the theme of "promise" in Galatians, the issue of prophecy in 2 Peter 1:19-20 & Ezekiel's prophecy in 37:1-14 reinforce and fill out one another.

# WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in the text/message this week and why?
2. What means does God use to bring life, according to the texts we looked at on Sunday? What's significant for our lives and ministry about Ezekiel repeating the Lord's commands, but not his own preaching?
3. If God's Word is the primary means God uses to give life to His people, what are some practical steps you can take to receive that life? How might God's life-giving Word impact your relationships with other believers? With other non-believers?
4. What areas of life tend to get you down, lead to a cynical outlook, or make you feel hopeless?
5. What difference does it make knowing that God has promised His followers life today in Jesus? How does that change the areas of life you struggle in? Have you ever brought Jesus' promise of life (in spite of the appearance—or reality—of death) into that area of your life? How would it look different if you did?