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A Valley of Dry Bones

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A VALLEY OF DRY BONES
Ezekiel 37:1-14

2nd captivity - 597
8 yrs. after Daniel 78.
20 MIN

INT:

God has always stayed in touch with His people; but His people have not always stayed in touch with Him.
Jer. 2:32. Hosea 4:6.

Methods have varied: Direct, indirect, dreams, trances and visions.

This lesson given through a vision to Ezekiel.

ALL EZEKIEL FULFILLED!

I. EZEKIEL'S WEIRD, HIGHLY SYMBOLICAL VISION. Vs. 1-6.

- A. Prophet placed in Valley of human bones. Full!
- B. Very dry. Dead, separated, bleached, brittle.
- C. Marrow gone! Bones separated, picked bare by the vultures, drug apart by wolves, many broken by edge of sword. Massive human carnage. Repulsive spectacle. Revolting to the stomach. As though there had been a great battle. Sand covered corpses. Cyclone uncovered them again. Valley of exposed white, dry and lifeless bones. Dead beyond life!!!
- D. Question: "Son of man, can these bones live?"
Can God do the impossible? Unreal? Unbelievable?
- E. Answer: "O Lord God, thou knowest!" I'm not qualified!
- F. Then "Prophecy to them." Teach them! V. 4.
- G. Message: I will cause breath to enter into you. 5. live.
- H. Promise: I will give ligaments, muscle and skin. 6.
- I. Result: You can AGAIN glorify God. Ecc. 12:13-14. 7.

II. EZEKIEL PROPHECIED AND STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED. Vs. 7-10.

- Rattle. Clatter.*
- A. A Noise, shaking of bones. Eerie. Awsome. Frightful.
 - B. Silently flesh grew to the bones, muscle and skin. 8.
 - C. They had no life. No breath. V. 8-9-10. Rev. 2:7.
 - D. Result: A splendid standing army, ready for battle.

III. GOD INTERPRETS THE VISION. 11-14.

- A
- A. Bones rep. whole nation of Israel in Babylon. Nobody!
 - B. Dry: City gone. Glory gone. Dreams gone. Freedom gone.
 - C. A dead nation buried in a Babylonian grave. Rom. 6:23
 - D. Can be resurrected, revitalized and revived spiritual.
Returned to Promised Land of joys and delights.
 - E. Israel could again Worship God from their Holy City.
Never again have a king! God is King! - *thru Jesus.*

IV. WE ARE IN A VALLEY OF DRY BONES. John 4:35-38.*

- A. People about us are spiritually dead too. Very dry.
In pop. of 679,400 only about 15,000
are Christians. Valley full of dry bones. 664,000
- B. Fewer reading Bibles, attending worship, getting involved or care!!! John 8:24. 12:48. Dry!

MT

9-23-73

1R-I 1-I

C. God asks: Can THESE bones live?

Wisest answer: Lord, Thou Knowest. (You can make the

D. What has God, through Christ promised?

Mark 16:15-16. They can live. $B+B=LIVE!$

Acts 2:38. Can find remission of sins. $R+B=R.O.S.$

Matthew 10:32. Can find nearness to heart of God.

Acts 16:31. Is something for man to believe in.

John 14:6. Is a way to God--through Christ.

Heb. 10:16-17. Can know the remission of sins.

E. Impact Christ has the answer: We will PROPHECY!

* See Children will hang the door-hangers.

Youth will survey for C. M. and C. C. takers.

below: Adults will teach classes and grade papers.

Families host families - Journey to Eternity.

This valley of Dry Bones can and will live if

God's children care enough to give

their very best. *Goal: at least one soul*

Christ - living in us. for Jesus.

ARE DOING JUST THIS! Many at work now.

tonight??

INV: Are YOU giving God your very best? Trying? Really?

Not till Acts 22:16.

Acts 8:22.

Identify.

Ill.

*#42
Religio = "to bind again."
Rel. like rope - many strands
Each strand a thread of obed.
How many strands ^{with binding} you to God?*

*Evangelistic Gospel Meeting coming Oct. 21-24.

Lost souls in valley of dry bones surround us.

WHO/ is going to do anything about it?

WHO/ will LOOK? SEEK? CARE? TRY? BRING?

GOAL MINIMUM: Each MT member bring ONE to the meeting. Will YOU TRY??? Hands!!