# Can these Bones Live? The Resurrection of YHWH's People Ezekiel 37:1–14 Veritas Sabbath School April 17, 2021

- <sup>1</sup> The hand of YHWH came upon me. He carried me away by the spirit of YHWH and set me down in the middle of the valley. It was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> As he led me around among them, I was surprised to see how exceedingly numerous they were there on the surface of the valley and astonished at how extremely dry they were.
- <sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "Human, can these bones live again?" I replied, "O Lord YHWH, that only you know."
- <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones. Declare to them, 'O dry bones, hear the message of YHWH. <sup>5</sup>Thus has Lord YHWH declared to these bones: "Look! I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup>I will attach sinews to you, cover you with flesh, and overlay you with skin. Yes, I will cause breath to enter you; then you will come to life, and you will know that I am YHWH.
- <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise! It was a rattling sound! The bones came together, each in its proper place [lit. "a bone to its bone"]. <sup>8</sup> I stared in amazement as sinews appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin overlaid them. But there was no breath in them.
- <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, human! Declare to the breath, 'Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: "Come from the four winds, O breath! Blow into these slain corpses, so they may come to life."
- <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me. The breath entered them, and they stood up on their feet, an exceedingly vast host.
- <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Human, as for these bones—they represent the entire house of Israel. Look! They are saying: 'Our bones are dried up; our hope has vanished; we are doomed.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:
- "Look! I will open your graves, and I will raise you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you will know that I am YHWH, when I have opened up your graves, and raised you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> Then I cause my Spirit to enter you and you will come to life. I will set you down upon your own land, and you will know that I am YHWH. I have spoken and I will act." The declaration of YHWH.

# **Exposition**

### A. Introduction

1. Ezekiel: The Prophet of the Spirit

Jeremiah 31:33	Ezekiel 36:27–28
I will have put my Torah within them	And my spirit I will put within you
And I will be their God,	And you shall be my people,
and they shall be my people.	and I will be your God.

- 2. The Historical Context of Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 3. The Significance of Ezekiel 37 in American Evangelical Zionism
- 4. The Structure of the Text
  - a. The Vision of the Dry Bones (vv. 1–2)
  - b. The Resuscitation of the Dry Bones (vv. 3–10)
  - c. The Significance of the Vision (vv. 11–14)

#### B. What do these bones mean?

- 1. The Clues
  - a. The entire valley was full of bones.
  - b. The bones lay on the surface of the ground.
  - c. The bones were very very dry.
  - d. These were the bones of victims of a huge slaughter.
- 2. The Explanation

Jeremiah 8:12

Deuteronomy 28:25-26

# C. Whom do these bones represent?

- 1. The nation of Israel
- 2. The entire human race
- 3. The remains of the western church

# D. What do these bones need?

- 1. A new infusion of the spirit of God.
- 2. A lifting of the curse.

# E. Application: Revive Us Again!