

WALKING WITH JESUS

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1–14

March 26, 2020

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"

I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

*The foot bone's connected to the leg bone.
The leg bone's connected to the knee bone.
The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone.
The thigh bone's connected to the back bone.
The back bone's connected to the neck bone.
The neck bone's connected to the head bone.
Now hear the Word of the Lord!*

Given the opportunity to attend youth camps, youth retreats, and church camps, we usually sang this song either outside around a fire or indoors. While indoors, we would stand and direct attention to the parts of the body during the singing. The song would be sung with tempo and much excitement, and for those already familiar, it was a delight.

Now years later and after study of the scripture, there's the interpretation of the prophet's message, which I must admit, was unknown during my youth; but I did understand the Hope.

Now what was understood by singing the verses is an appreciation of the power to give life and to revive life by our Lord. Now, when reading these scriptures, I sense the power of the spirit and the trust that all things are possible by trusting our Lord.

*Them bones gonna rise again!
I know it, know it! Indeed, I know it, brother.
I know it, WHEEE!
Them bones gonna rise again!*

Prayer: Through Lent, may our witness demonstrate the power of love and hope of our Risen Savior. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

John R. Skidmore, Cross Roads UMC
jrskid@comcast.net