

Dry Bones and God's Promises of Restoration

Have you ever felt so hopeless that the idea of experiencing or attaining anything remotely good seemed impossible and out of reach? It's during similar moments of hopelessness in the book of Ezekiel that God interrupts his messages of judgment with powerful images of restoration. In Ezekiel, God famously depicts Israel's sinful condition as a valley of dry bones. But in this vision, the bones amazingly do not stay dead. Slowly, death is reversed and beyond all reason and logic, the dry, dead bones are restored to life. The bones were not lost forever and through this vision, God was promising restoration for Israel. Join us in studying the hope-filled imagery of this and other restorative visions in Ezekiel and be reminded of just how great God's love is for his people, how seriously he takes his promises, and how deeply we can trust that one day God will restore us fully too.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does it mean to restore something?
- Can dead bones come back to life? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Dry Bones and God's Promises of Restoration*](#)

READ [Ezekiel 37, 47](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Read Romans 6, especially verses 20-23. How does the imagery found in Ezekiel's valley of dry bones vision (Ezekiel 37:1-14) deepen your understanding of Paul's teaching in Romans 6?
- In segment 2, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss how God must intervene to fulfill his promises of restoration. Darrell says, "That is exactly what God does in the history of Israel. He does it in our hearts and lives because if we didn't get an intervention from God, we would definitely continue on the road to sin as well." In what ways has God intervened like this to restore you and your life?
- While discussing Ezekiel's vision of the river—starting as a trickle and growing until it was an uncrossable, life-giving river (Ezekiel 47:1-14)—Scott and Darrell reflect on how often God starts with something small or ordinary and grows it to something big or extraordinary. Can you think of additional biblical examples of this? Where have you witnessed God start small, but then build something big in your life?
- What other Bible verses, poems, songs, or hymns give you hope in the midst of hopelessness, like God's promises of restoration provide hope in the midst of judgment in Ezekiel?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Romans 6:20-23](#), [Genesis 2:4-7](#), [Job 19:25-27](#), [Daniel 12](#), [John 5:24-25](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#), [Revelation 22:1-5](#), [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on Ezekiel's visions and God's promises of restoration and then answer the following questions.

- What is your life's testimony?
- How does God restoring us bring glory to his name?
- Where might God be using "ordinary you" to create something extraordinary?

Close your reflection with prayer. Give thanks for the hope and promise of restoration and pray that your life would bring glory to God's name as he multiplies small things to build something big and extraordinary.

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