

DRY BONES AND GOD'S PROMISES OF RESTORATION

Ezekiel 37, 47

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

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

When we've messed up and face painful consequences for our actions, it can be really hard to see beyond our immediate circumstances. At these times, hopelessness threatens to overcome us. But hopelessness is not the end of God's story for his people, including us. As God demonstrates in Ezekiel, he longs to restore his people. He does not want to leave us condemned or exiled because of our sins. Instead, God repeatedly interrupts his pronouncements of judgment to offer hope-filled images that depict his promises of restoration. Studying these promises gives us hope, affirms God's love, and reminds us that we can trust God's promises.

Listen: [*Dry Bones and God's Promises of Restoration*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- 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

- **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.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/dry-bones-and-gods-promises-of-restoration>

Printed on July 3, 2024