

## **“Can These Bones Live?” (Ezek. 37:3)**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Summary of OT chronology from United Kingdom-Silent Years.
2. The Babylonian Captivity:
  - a. Foretold (Jer. 25:8-12; 29:10; Dan. 9:1-2).
  - b. Completed (Dan. 9:1-2; 2 Chr. 36:15-23; Ezra 1).
  - c. Experienced (Jer. 29:1-7; Psa. 137:1-6; Jer. 25:10-11; 29:15-20; Lam. 1:1-11).
3. God’s mercy/providence – His prophets were where His people were (cf. Jer. 29:15):
  - a. Daniel in 1<sup>st</sup> group of captives taken (606 BC; Babylon – palace; 1:1-7).
  - b. Ezekiel in 2<sup>nd</sup> group of captives taken (597 BC; Babylon – people; 1:1).
  - c. Jeremiah remains in Jerusalem/Judea until the fall of Jerusalem when the 3<sup>rd</sup> group of captives was taken (586 BC).
4. A vision given to Ezekiel is our specific focus:

### **BODY:**

#### **I. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezek. 37:1-14):**

##### A. Outline:

- a. **Setting:** Desolate, defiled valley (1-3).
- b. **Instruction:** Ezekiel told to prophesy to the bones (4-6).
- c. **Result #1:** Bones move and receive flesh (7-8).
- d. **Result #2:** Bones receive breath and life (9-10).
- e. **Promises:** Life after Captivity (11-14).

B. Key question – “Can these bones live again?” (v. 3).

**D.** Key connection – God’s word produced life in these bones (vv. 4,7,10).

*C. Key instruction - “Prophesy” = “Hear the word of the Lord”*

#### **II. Life-Giving, Life-Changing Power of God’s Word!**

A. Affirmed 400 years before Ezekiel (Psa. 1:1-3; 19:7-11; 119:11,97-105,130).

B. Repeated 700 years after Ezekiel (Heb. 1:1-2:4; 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:2).

C. **Thought question:** Why “preach” the word in 2 Tim. 4:2?

#### **III. God’s Drawing Power:**

##### A. Gospel of John:

- a. Synoptic Gospels (Matt.-Luke) vs. “Significance” Gospel (John).
- b. Overall purpose – “that you may believe” (20:30-31).
- c. Nine miracles recorded – progressive in power and purpose.
- d. Miracle opens door for further understanding of Jesus (Jn. 6:1-21).
- e. Contrasts believer’s character vs. unbeliever’s character (Jn. 6:41-43).

B. “Comes to Me” (Jn. 6:44-45):

- a. “Father draws him” (v. 44).
- b. “They shall all be taught by God” (v. 45; cf. Isa. 54:13).
- c. “Therefore...heard...learned...from the Father” (v. 45).

C. OT relevance (Priests; kings; homes; Neh. 8; etc.).

D. NT relevance (Lk. 4:18; 8:11; Heb. 2:3-4; Eph. 4:11-13; 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5).

E. **If all else fails, I can read, study and obey God’s word - even if I have to do it all by myself - and let it give me breath and life!**

#### IV. **Back to the Valley of Dry Bones (re-read Ezek. 37:1-14):**

A. Observation – ponder all the benefits we've studied that come from God's word!

#### CONCLUDING QUESTION: How Are YOUR Bones Today?

##### ① **2 Chronicles 36:15-21:**

Good outline of Bible periods from Judah Alone to Return from Captivity.

Judah Alone (15-16)

Destruction of Jerusalem/Temple – Final Nail in the Coffin (17-21)

Return (22-23)

##### ② **Psalm 19 (8;3-8; 139:13-16):**

General Rev. (1-6) Specific Rev. (7-14)

Nature (Foundation) Law (Relationship)

Who I Am (Did) What I Want (Said)

Power & Intellig. Love & Mercy

Create Your World Re-Create Your Soul

##### ③ **Hebrews 1:1-2:4:** **God Has Spoken - Are We Listening?**

Jesus Superior To....

Prophets and Angels (1-2)

Moses and Joshua (3-4)

Levitical Priesthood (5-7)

Mosaic Worship (8-10)

Any Other Lifestyle (11-13)

##### ④ **2 Tim. 3:16-4:2:**

Inspired – Profitable – Doctrine – Re-proof – Correction - Instruction in Righteousness - Complete...

Source of Preaching (4:2)....

##### ⑤ **Psalm 1:**

Blessed Man (1-3) vs. Ungodly (4-6)

What (v. 2) and Why (v. 3)

“Tree – Fruitful – Not Wither – Prosper.”

##### ⑥ **Psalm 119:**

22 Hebrew Letters – 22 Sections

**Benefits:** Preventive (9,11), Wisdom (98), Understanding (99,100), Sweet (103), Protective (104), Lamp/Light (105, 130).

##### ⑦ **Hebrews 4:12**

Context – Moses/Joshua

Rest and Unbelief – Canaan vs. Heaven

3:3,5-6,12-13,15,18-19; 4:1-2,11-12

**Description:** Living, Powerful, Sharper, Piercing, Discerning

##### ⑧ **John 6:44-45:**

Miracles: Feeding 5000, Walk on Sea

Miracles Open Door for Deeper Discussion of His Significance (i.e., Bread of Life, From Heaven). **See 20:30-31.**

Jews had not and would not accept Him because of their hard-heartedness, not humble/receptive to Father's drawing.

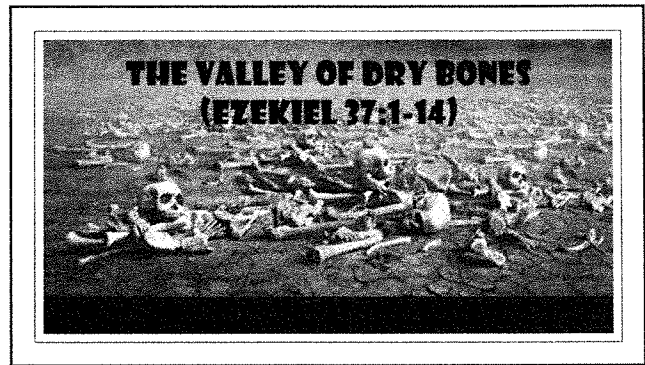
**Also see 12:32.**

Verse 45 explains how the Father draws people to Jesus! **Cf. Isa. 54:13.**

### 17 Periods of Bible Chronology

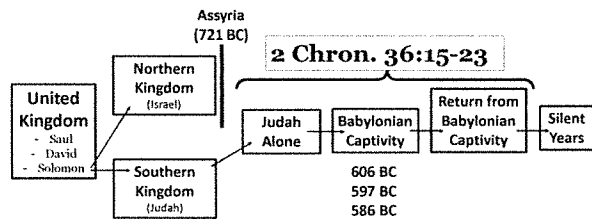
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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Before The Flood (Creation, Fall). | 10. The Divided Kingdom.                |
| 2. The Flood.                         | 11. Judah Alone.                        |
| 3. Scattering of the Nations.         | 12. Babylonian Captivity.               |
| 4. The Patriarchs.                    | 13. Return From Captivity.              |
| 5. Exodus from Egypt.                 | 14. Silent Years.                       |
| 6. Wilderness Wanderings.             | 15. Life of Christ.                     |
| 7. Conquest of Canaan.                | 16. The Early Church.                   |
| 8. The Judges.                        | 17. Letters to Churches and Christians. |
| 9. The United Kingdom.                |   |

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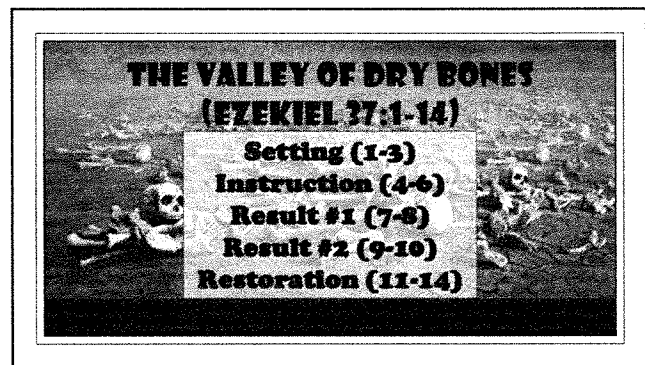


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### Chronology of Old Testament (United Kingdom – Silent Years)



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### Babylonian Captivity...

**Foretold** (Jer. 25:8-12; 29:10; Dan. 9:1-2).

**Completed** (Dan. 9:1-2; 2 Chr. 36:15-23; Ezra 1).

**Experienced:**

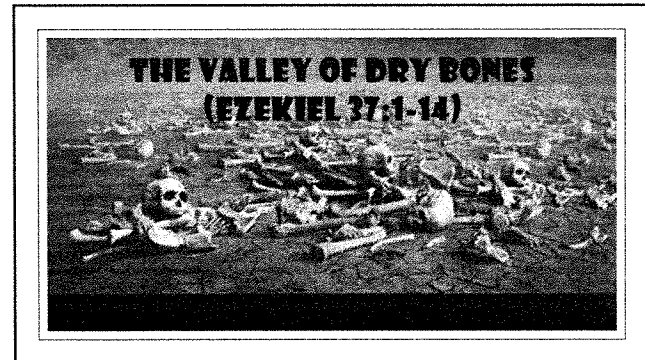
- Babylon (Jer. 29:1-7; Psa. 137:1-6).
- Judah (Jer. 25:10-11; 29:15-19; Lam. 1).

**Wherever God's people were His prophets were (Jer. 29:15):**

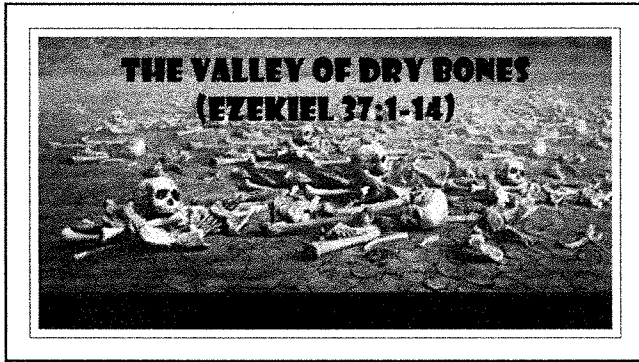
- Daniel (606 BC; Babylon – palace; 1:1-7).
- Ezekiel (597 BC; Babylon – people; 1:1-3).
- Jeremiah (586 BC; Jerusalem/Judah – fall).

– Deportations by Assyria 8th cent. BCE  
– Deportations by Babylon 6th cent. BCE

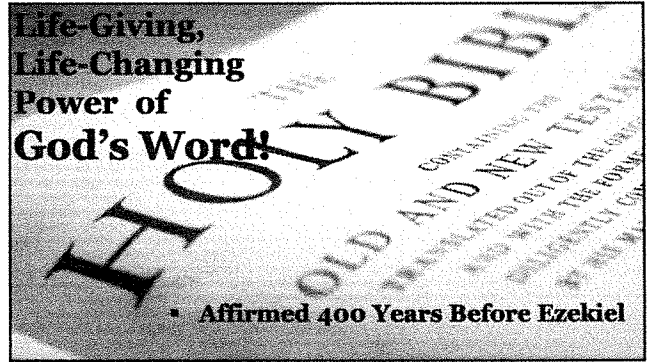
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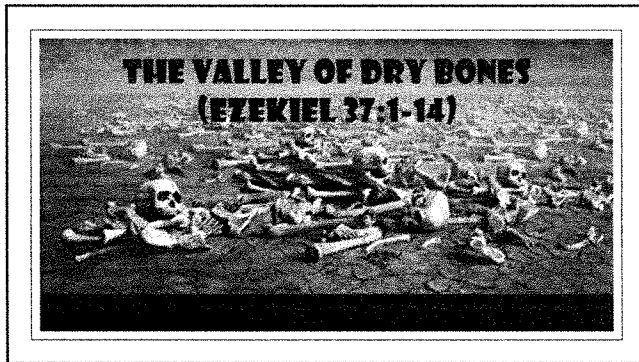
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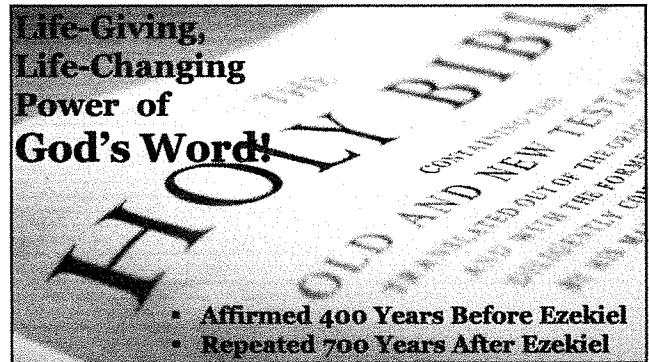
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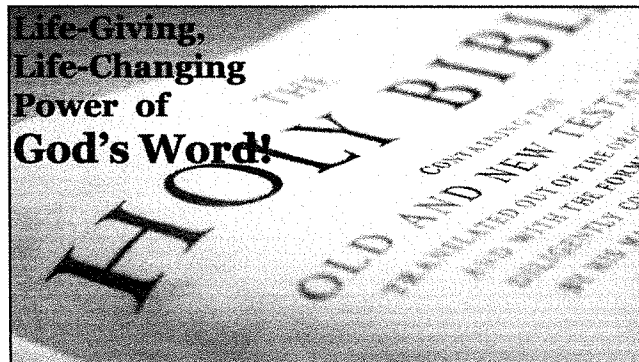
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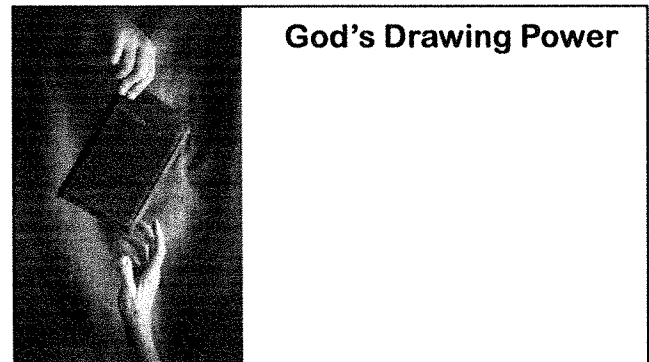
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**God's Drawing Power**  
 ✓ Purpose of John's Gospel.

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**God's Drawing Power**  
 ✓ Purpose of John's Gospel.

✓ "Comes To Me" (Jn. 6:44-45):

44 No one can come to Me unless the FATHER who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the FATHER comes to Me.

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**God's Drawing Power**  
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✓ "Comes To Me" (Jn. 6:44-45):

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**God's Drawing Power**

- ✓ Purpose of John's Gospel.
- ✓ "Comes To Me" (Jn. 6:44-45):

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me **DRAWS** him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be **TAUGHT** by God.' Therefore everyone who has **HEARD**... **LEARNED** from the Father comes to Me.


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**God's Drawing Power**

- ✓ Purpose of John's Gospel.
- ✓ "Comes To Me" (Jn. 6:44-45).
- ✓ Relevance For Us?
- ✓ I can read, study and obey God's word for myself... even if no one else does!

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**God's Drawing Power**

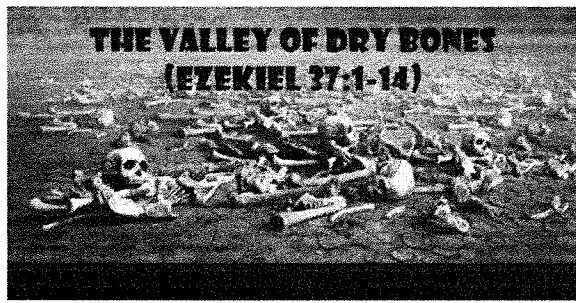
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**D = T + F + H + L**

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**THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES**  
**(EZEKIEL 37:1-14)**

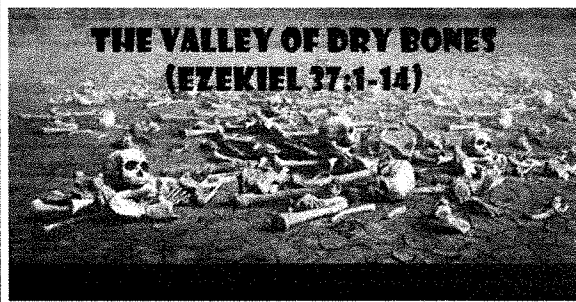
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**God's Drawing Power**

- ✓ Purpose of John's Gospel.
- ✓ "Comes To Me" (Jn. 6:44-45).
- ✓ Relevance For Us?

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**THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES**  
**(EZEKIEL 37:1-14)**

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