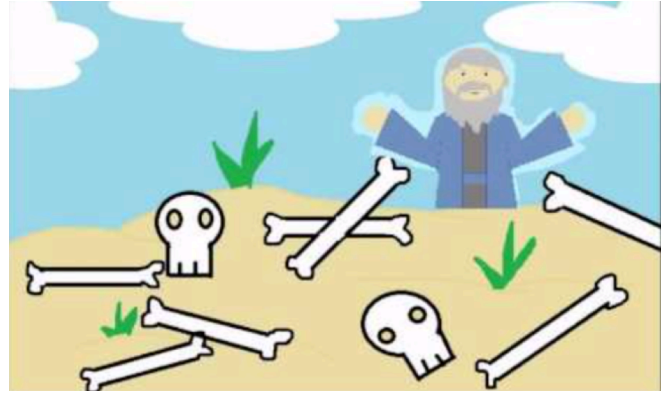


# The Prophet Ezekiel

## *Final Chapter of the Old Testament*

**LESSON:** Book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

**THEME:** God gives us Hope



**SCRIPTURE:** *"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live,"* Ezekiel 37:14

### **KEY TERMS:**

**Prophet** - a person who is regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.

**Prophecy** - Predicting and seeing something that will happen in the future and telling others.

### ***A few items to concentrate on when teaching the Book of Ezekiel:***

1. God works in unusual ways sometimes
2. God keeps His promises. He restored Israel to a country thousands of years after it was completely destroyed. That's amazing.
3. God still has promises He hasn't kept yet. They will be amazing to see when He does.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**SAY:** "How many of you know what a skeleton is?" Explain as needed. "How many of you have seen a skeleton?" If they don't have a story then share one of your own, maybe bring up Halloween decorations. Of course, adapt and edit this discussion to the age group of your audience. Don't give little ones nightmares.

**SAY:** Did you know that one time someone in the bible had a dream about skeletons that came back to life?" His name was Ezekiel, and it wasn't a scary dream, but it was a dream that God spoke to him . . .

### **THE STORY:**

The people of God were still prisoners in Babylon. They lived far away from their home country. Sometimes the people were very sorry that they had not obeyed God. If they had obeyed God then they would not be prisoners. The people were so sad that they did not even have any hope that things could change.

Ezekiel was a prophet of God. God gave Ezekiel messages and Ezekiel told God's messages to the people. Even when the people were prisoners in the country of Babylon, Ezekiel preached about God.

One time Ezekiel had a special dream. It was not a sleep kind of dream. It was a special dream sent from God. This kind of dream is called a vision.

In Ezekiel's vision the Lord took him to a valley of dry bones. The Lord set Ezekiel down right in the middle of the bones! Ezekiel looked at all of the bones and knew that they must belong to people who had died a very long time ago. The bones were all white and dry.

Then Ezekiel heard the voice of God say, "Ezekiel, can these bones come to life again?"

Ezekiel must have thought to himself about how powerful God was. It would be impossible for bones to come back to life but God could probably do it. So he answered the Lord, "Only you know if they can."

Then the Lord told Ezekiel to do something very unusual. He told Ezekiel to talk to the old dry bones and prophesy to them telling them the words of the Lord. Ezekiel did just as the Lord said. He prophesied the bones! The Lord told Ezekiel to tell the bones that God would make breath enter them and they would come back to life!

When Ezekiel prophesied to the bones just as God had said, the bones started rattling and shaking! Soon the bones started coming together and flesh and skin appeared on them. Ezekiel was amazed to see and hear all of this in his vision! Then, they stood up! There were many live people standing around. Ezekiel saw that they were a big army. It was amazing. God took a bunch of old dry bones and made an army!

Then the Lord told Ezekiel that the nation of Israel was like the valley of dry bones. Their nation had been conquered and all of the people were prisoners. The beautiful city of Jerusalem and the temple had been knocked down and burned and the people thought there was no hope.

But God can do anything! He can take a bunch of old bones and make an army. He can also take the nation of Israel and make it strong again. He could take the people back to their land and rebuild the temple.

Now Ezekiel understood the vision. Although the people of Israel were prisoners now, someday they would get to go back to their homes. Ezekiel was happy to tell the people the good news. Now they could all have something to hope for.