

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the live-stream message from Sappony Baptist Church in Stony Creek, Virginia. We are thankful that you have been able to join us this morning. We are looking forward to the day when we can resume meeting in person, but we are thankful that we have technology that allows us to connect with each other while still socially distancing. We hope and pray that you will be blessed by our message this morning. Please be sure to like and comment so that we know you've joined in. Audio of this sermon, along with sermon notes and information about our church will be available at sappony1773.org.

INVOCATION:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and protection for us. We thank you for the health that You have given us, and for the ability to proclaim the gospel across space and time. We invite Your Holy Spirit into our gathering, as we are gathered in heart if not in body. We praise You and we love You. Receive our worship this morning as we freely give it.

In the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

MAIN TEXT (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

BACKGROUND: Ezekiel was a prophet in Jerusalem in its final days before the Babylonian captivity and spoke against the corruption that was happening. The people did not repent, and were taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B. C. Ezekiel was also taken and continued to prophesy. In our passage today, he is letting the Israelites know that their nation will live again. Today, we're going to take note that God places Ezekiel where the dead are,

God tells Ezekiel what to say to the dead, the dead receive life, and that God promises restoration. Then we're going to see how that applies to us.

PASSAGE OUTLINE:

1. GOD PLACES EZEKIEL WHERE THE DEAD ARE (37:1-3)
 - a. According to the Law, they could not touch the dead.
 - b. These were not properly buried, so they were disgraced.
 - c. God places him right in the middle so that he can bring words of life to them.
 - d. "Son of man": Jesus liked to refer to Himself as Son of Man.
 - e. Can these live? "With man it is impossible, but not with God."

2. GOD TELLS EZEKIEL WHAT TO SAY TO THE DEAD (37:4-8)
 - a. I will cause breath to enter you.
 - i. This word can mean wind or breath.
 - ii. In Creation, God breathed into Adam, giving him life.
 - b. I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow, and cover you with skin.
 - c. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.
 - i. Only God can bring someone back from the dead.
 - ii. They were so far dead that their bones were scattered.

3. THE DEAD RECEIVE LIFE (37:9-10)
 - a. The bones come together
 - b. The flesh grows back
 - c. There is no life until God breathes.
 - d. Interestingly, this is reversed from what was said.

4. GOD PROMISES RESTORATION (11-14)
 - a. God is using this as an analogy for Israel.
 - i. They have been conquered.
 - ii. They have no hope.
 - b. God promises to restore them to their land.
 - i. Everything since the fall of man in the Garden is designed to restore the world back to God's design.
 - ii. They were removed from their land by sin. They will be restored to it by grace.
 - c. He also promises His Spirit.

APPLICATION:

1. (Ephesians 2:1-2) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world.
 - a. We were all a pile of dead bones with no life.
 - b. Sin always leads to destruction. There is no harmless sin.
2. (Ephesians 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!
 - a. The Messiah is Jesus.
 - b. Out of love, God sent His Son to die for you.
3. We who were once dead, and are alive, were placed here in the world to speak words of life to the dead so that they may live!
4. All Ezekiel did was speak the words; God was the one who did the restoration.
5. All the dead did was receive life. There was nothing they could do to earn this life.
6. Do you have an opportunity to speak to someone who is dead in their sins? Tell them the words of life.

7. Are you still dead in your sins? You can not earn salvation, but you can accept it. Maybe you're willing to accept new life today.

Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!

If you just prayed this prayer for the first time and are now a new believer, please let us know in the comments so that we can reach out to you to help you get started in your new life in Christ.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this week.
Amen!