

THE WALKING DEAD

STRANGE THINGS -- Part One

May 20, 2018

Pastor Gordon

"The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. Then he asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones become living people again?' "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' " So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.' " So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!' ""
(Ezekiel 37:1–14, NLT)

*"We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.""
(Ezekiel 37:11, NLT)*

Roads that Lead to Death Valley

DOUBT DEAD ENDS DIFFICULTIES

"Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure." (Psalm 23:4, The Message)

How is L.I.F.E. Renewed?

LET God's Spirit and Power Guide Me

"Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." (Ezekiel 37:3, NLT)

"Now I am happy, not because you were made sad, but because your sorrow made you change your lives. (2 Corinthians 7:9, NCV)

"I am going to put breath into you and make you live again!" (Ezekiel 37:5, NLT)

"The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8, GNB)

IMPLEMENT Foundational Disciplines

"The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons." (Ezekiel 37:7, NLT)

"... we are those who have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16, NJB)

"Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man doesn't live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "" (Matthew 4:4, NIRV)

FOCUS My Attention on Serving Others

"Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones." (Ezekiel 37:8, NLT)

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT)

"You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand." (Galatians 6:2, CEV)

ENGAGE in God's Plans

"O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land." (Ezekiel 37:13–14, NLT)

"The fact is, even if you remain silent now, someone else will help and rescue the Jews, but you and your relatives will die. And who knows, you may have gained your royal position for a time like this." (Esther 4:14, GW)

"They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem," (Luke 24:47, CEV)

"The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives." (2 Peter 3:9, NCV)

Action:

Super Class Week Sunday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 6