

The Watchman #12
The Valley of Dry Bones

Word

Scripture Reference

Ezekiel 35-37

Discussion Questions

1. Give an example of impossible things that human beings cannot do.
2. Ezekiel 35-37 gives as an account showing that God will do the impossible in order to give hope to the hopeless people. In order to make an impact in this generation, you as a follower of Christ need to come to the realization that the God you worship and acknowledge CAN do the impossible. If you don't really believe that God can do what He says He will do, your faith will wilt. Share from your experience something that God had done in your life that seemed impossible from the human standpoint. How did it strengthen your faith?
3. The first half of the book of Ezekiel talks about condemnation because of sin, but the latter half changed to a theme of encouragement and comfort to God's people who were feeling hopeless. Historically, the prophesied destruction of Jerusalem had just taken place. Judah had just fallen in the hands of the Babylonians and were exiled in 586 B.C. During this time, Ezekiel was re-commissioned to encourage God's people. How did God use His messenger to do so? What prophecy did Ezekiel give to the nation of Seir (or Edom) in chapter 35:1-2? Why would this prophecy encourage God's people? Aside from prophesying against the people of Edom, what else did Ezekiel prophesy in the rest of the chapter? What was God's purpose for doing what was prophesied (v. 14-15)?

4. Ezekiel's prophecy in chapter 36:1-15 further encouraged the children of Israel, saying through a mountain metaphor that other nations would be judged but Israel would be restored. Verses 16-38 describe how God would restore and bless His people. What were God's promises in verses 25-27? Do you think Israel deserves this restoration after being disloyal to God? What is the basis why would God restore them? Whose reputation is at stake if God would not help them (v. 36)?
5. In Chapter 37, God brought Ezekiel to a valley full of very dry bones, which means that those people have been dead for a long time. Israel was considered culturally dead because she had no more land, no people, and no rightful king. Everything they had was gone. The valley of dead bones was a metaphor for Israel. What did God tell Ezekiel in verse 3? What did God instruct him to do (v. 4-6). If you were Ezekiel, would you believe God and do what He instructed? For you to believe that God would do the impossible, you need to believe in the following:
 - a. **The power of God's Word (v. 3-6).** Faith is believing in what you cannot see. Discuss how Christians believe not in what God said He would do, but only when they see the results. If God did not answer your prayers, would you still believe in His Word? Do you believe God for who He is and not just for what He does? What does shifting from results-oriented faith to a character-oriented faith in God mean?
 - b. **The ability of God's action (v. 7-13).** Ezekiel must have been in shock at the display of God's power in restoring the dead to life. God could certainly restore Israel as well. Historically, the Israelites were a hated people, and many nations tried many times to annihilate them. But God has always been protecting them. What does it tell you about the extent of God's power through His ability to do the impossible? Is there a seemingly impossible thing in your life that you are dealing with right now? Discuss how you could you trust God's ability to work it out for you.

Walk

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.’ “ (Ezekiel 37:14, NKJV)

God’s spoken Word should be sufficient for us to believe Him, and His actions have proven that His word is correct. With God’s enabling power in you, is there anything that you cannot do?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that Your word is sufficient enough for me to believe in You. Forgive me if my tendency is to believe only when I see the result of Your work instead of believing in who You are and in Your character. Help me to believe in Your ability to do the impossible instead of trusting You based on my small faith and understanding of what You can really do. Help me to live in faith, trusting You for every detail of my life because You know what is best for me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.