

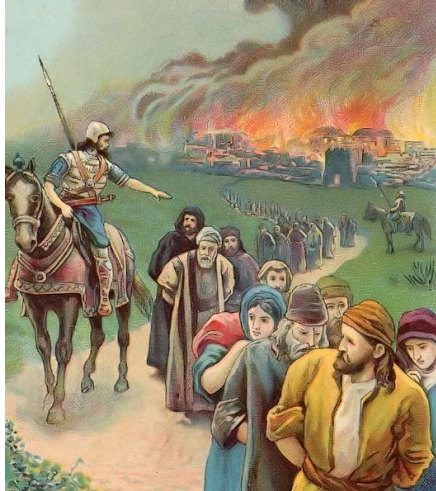
November 15, 2020

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:1-6; 37:1-11

Title: Can These Bones Be Alive Again?

Context:

Despair is what the Israelites were feeling. After Jerusalem was taken over by the Babylonians, many Israelites died of starvation; others were taken into captivity, and marched in chains from Jerusalem to Babylon. The context of the story is stated very clearly in Ezekiel 34: 5-6 where it says Israelites were scattered everywhere.



Being in Despair:

Israelites went through a period of despair in Babylon. They had watched their friends die. They had seen their properties destroyed. They had no homes to go back to. They stayed in exile for 70 years.

Psalm 137:1-4, "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"



Hope is on the way:

God had a plan for restoration and needed the Israelites to understand that this was not forever. Because of this, God sent Ezekiel with a message of hope in Ezekiel 37:1-11.