

The STORY - Week Seventeen

February 5, 2017

Can They Live Again?

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The goal of God's people in Babylon is not to plan their escape. The goal is to live and work as salt and light in order to bless Babylon and to allow people to see the good work they do as a reflection of the glory and goodness of God - T. S. Daniels (2017)

...the point of resurrection is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die... What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it. What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, care for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether... they are a part of what we may call building for God's kingdom - N. T. Wright (2008).

Now may the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen....Hebrews 13:20-21

Next week: *Daniel in Exile.*

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FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

God called prophets to call His people back.

God calls each of us and all of us too.

We all have a role in God's unfolding story of love.

God gives His Spirit to help us fulfill our role.

In the midst of judgment, God promises hope.

Am I bringing hope and faith to my neighbors?

How can we convey the church to the world...

...not as a place to go but something God...

...forms to bless and redeem the world?

Oh Lord, bring Your Spirit's power to my...

...dry bones of cynicism and complacency...

Bring me to vibrant life and faith today!

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