

Blessed, Not Bad, To the Bone

1) 2 Kings 13:20 – 21 NKJV, Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the *raiding* bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. ²¹ So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of *raiders*; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

a. There was such tangible life from God in the very cells in Elisha's bones that they could raise the dead. Is that same physical reality of God's life available to us today?

2) Proverbs 3:1 – 8, My son, do not forget my (Torah), But let your heart keep my commands; ² For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴ And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

a. What are we supposed to keep from forgetting that will be strength (drink) to our bones?

b. Where does the wisdom to not trust our own eyes, understanding, or perspective come from?

c. What does it mean to acknowledge Him in all our ways, and what will happen when we do that?

3) Luke 12:22 – 32, ²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O you of little faith? ²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- a. What does it mean to worry, and why does Jesus tell us not to do it?
- b. What is the opposite of worry? Should we practice that as an antidote to worry?
- c. Can our understanding of the reality of the Kingdom of God within us affect the very cells in our body?

4) Ezekiel 37:1 – 14, The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones.
² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” ⁴ Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord.””
⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them. ⁹ Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.””” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴ 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.””

- a. In verse 4 what did God tell Ezekiel to say over the dry bones?
- b. Was this the first time Ezekiel was told to speak over the bones?
- c. What had to come before the members of the army could live? What is the significance of this in relation to our meditating the Word of God?
- d. These bones were called the whole house of Israel. What does that mean for us?
- e. God said that He was bringing Israel up out of their graves to be placed in their own land. What is the significance of this for us today?