

Ezekiel 37:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

Analysis

"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them." Physical assembly precedes spiritual animation—bodies exist but lack life. This illustrates the difference between external reformation and internal regeneration. Religious activity without the Spirit's life is corpse-religion—outward form without inward reality. The Reformed distinction between visible and invisible church appears—not everyone assembled visibly possesses spiritual life. External covenant membership doesn't guarantee regeneration. The Spirit must animate what appears assembled.

Historical Context

The vision (587 BC) shows two-stage restoration: physical regathering then spiritual revival. The post-exilic community returned physically but initially lacked spiritual vitality—rebuilding structures while neglecting relationship with God. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah addressed this spiritual deadness. Similarly, the visible church contains both living believers and dead professors. External participation (baptism, church attendance, orthodox confession) without Spirit-wrought life is insufficient. The passage warns against equating external religious activity with true spiritual life.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What areas of religious activity in your life might be outward form lacking spiritual life?
2. How do you distinguish between genuine Spirit-worked faith and mere external conformity?

Interlinear Text

וְכַאֲ יִתִּי	וְהִנֵּה	עָלֶיהָ מִ	גְּדִים	וּבֶשֶׁר	עָלָה
And when I beheld	H2009	H5921	lo the sinews	and the flesh	came up
H7200			H1517	H1320	H5927
מִ	עָלֶיהָ מִ	עַ וְ	מִלְּמָ עָלָה	וְ	וְ
covered	H5921	upon them and the skin	them above	but there was no breath	
H7159		H5785	H4605	H7307	
בָּהֶם: אֵין					
H369	H0				

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