

# 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

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"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

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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

וְאֵת	עַל	וּבְשָׁר	גָּדִים	עַלְיָהּ מִזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת
<b>And when I beheld</b>	H2009	H5921	<b>to the sinews</b>	<b>and the flesh</b>	<b>came up</b>
H7200			H1517	H1320	H5927
בָּרְכָת	עַלְיָהּ מִזְבֵּחַ	עַר	מִלְתָּם עַלְהָה	וְאֵת	וְאֵת
<b>covered</b>	H5921	<b>upon them and the skin</b>	<b>them above</b>	<b>but there was no breath</b>	
H7159		H5785	H4605	H7307	
בְּקָרְבָּן:	אֵין				
H369	H0				

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