

## March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ● Ezekiel 37:1-14

Page 724 in the church Bibles ● Death & Resurrection Message #2 ● by Pastor Marcus Johnson



Audio versions of Sermons and detailed sermon notes are available on our website: **LakeRegionBibleChurch.org** (see "Messages 2024" tab)

# Knowing the LORD & His Resurrection Power: Life & Hope for those Facing Despair & Death

# 1. Knowing the LORD & His Resurrection Power

• His people were exiles without hope because of their sinful-idolatrous ways
• He promised thru His prophet to fulfill His promise with resurrection power
<ul> <li>He makes Himself known thru His resurrection power &amp; by His Spirit (for the sake of His holy Name)</li> </ul>

## 2. Knowing Christ & His Resurrection Power

• He gives life & hope for those facing despair & death

• "Hear" the word of the Lord – and experience life in His Name

• Be filled with the Spirit – bearing God-glorifying witness to His Name

#### "How the Old Testament Prepares Us for the Third Day" - by Justin Dillehay

Excerpts taken from: thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-third-day/ (April 20, 2019)
Dillehay gives 4 examples of Christ's resurrection on the third day being foreshadowed in the OT:

1st, Sparing Isaac (Gen 22), 2nd, Descending on Sinai (Ex 19), 3rd, Raising Israel (Ezk 37) and 4th,
Saving Jonah (Jonah 1-2). His 3rd example is listed below, which goes with today's message.

The regathering of God's people from the Babylonian exile is sometimes described as a resurrection (Ezek. 37:11–14). Hosea 6:2 describes the time frame of this resurrection: "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him." (Hos. 6:1–2) After they had borne God's wrath, being cut down and killed in the exile (Isa. 6:11–13; 40:1–2), God promises to raise them up on the third day. Of course, the reference here is to Israel being raised, not to the Messiah. But Jesus is the true Israel, the ultimate offspring of Abraham. And like Israel, God raised him up on the third day (... see Matt. 2:15's use of Hos. 11:1) ...

When Paul says that Christ was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, I believe he had passages like these in mind—and there are more besides (2 Kings 20:5; Est. 5:1). Admittedly, only the Jonah passage is explicitly mentioned in the New Testament. But rather than limiting us in drawing connections from the Old Testament, Jesus's use of Jonah 1:17 should teach us how to interpret similar passages that aren't explicitly mentioned. The empty tomb shouldn't have been a surprise, especially coming when it did. It's not as though the Israelites hadn't been prepared. Not only had Jesus repeatedly told them (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34), but God also had been working wonders on the third day for millennia. And it wasn't by accident. On the contrary, it should strengthen our faith when we consider that God designed all of history with Jesus at the center, with every third-day deliverance pointing directly to him. Risen and reigning, Jesus is supreme. But he will not be alone; he is only the firstfruits. And someday, "figuratively speaking," the third day is coming for us all. Remember that this Easter.

Hos. 6:2 After two days he will revive us shows that even after this fierce slaying (v. 1) they are not beyond the Lord's healing. Healing is a picture of a complete metamorphosis: a rising from the dead on the third day. The Septuagint's Greek translation for on the third day he will raise us up is part of what lay behind Jesus' and the NT writers' statements that Jesus' resurrection "on the third day" was according to the Scriptures (Luke 24:46; 1 Cor. 15:4; cf. also Jonah in Matt. 12:40). Hosea was not writing about the Messiah directly, however, but about the people of Israel. The NT use of this idea depends on seeing a parallel between Israel's resurrection on the third day in this verse, and Jesus as the Messiah representing and embodying his people. The potential of Israel's third-day resurrection is to be ultimately realized in the resurrection of the One who acted in Israel's stead (cf. Matt. 3:13–15). This picture of Israel's death and resurrection thus sets the pattern for what eventually will be accomplished in and through Christ. {The ESV Study Bible, © 2008, Crossway Bibles}