



The Bones of the Prophet

The Bones of the Prophet

- Humankind is fascinated with human bodies after they die
- The point is: the living believe the dead have power.
 - “The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.” (William Shakespeare)

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- The Bible teaches that the dead have no power in this world to physically impact the living; only their influence lives on.
 - Ecc. 9:4-6, 10 - “But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. 5 For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun... 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

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- Job 7:9-10 - “As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up. 10 He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.”
- 2Sam. 12:23 - “But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”
- Psalm 115:17 - “The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor any who go down into silence.”

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- Only the power of influence
 - Heb. 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”
- Does the Bible speak of power in dead bones of prophets?

The Bones Of Elisha

- 2Kings 13:14, 20-21 - “Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen! ... 20 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.”

The Bones Of Elisha

- Blessings from bones?
- Or gift from God?

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- A man of God died, but his Lord is still alive.
- His power is present; His promise is permanent
 - 2Kings 13:19, 25 - “And the man of God was angry with him, and said, You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times... 25 And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- Trust the Lord who is alive, active, and almighty
 - Psalm 118:8 - “It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.”
- What do the bones of the prophet say to us today?
 - John 14:19 - “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also”
 - Phil 3:21 - “Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- A man of God died, but his influence remained
- The reason for his influence? His influence abides after his death, because he abided with God in life.
 - Eph. 1:19 - “And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- A man of God died, but his work continued
 - 1Cor. 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."
 - "Let us not rust out. Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly out of it without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Blessed Redeemer. At the very least, let us see to it that when the Devil gets news of our departure from the battlefield, he throws a thanksgiving party in hell." (C. T. Studd)

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- A man of God died, but God had other messages to teach through his life
- God uses the dust of departed saints to remind us of their holy lives
 - Num. 23:10 - “Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- The dust of the godly dead bears witness that they are still living. It tells us that a physical body is not strong enough to house an eternal spirit for very long.
 - 2Cor. 5:4 - “For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- 1Cor. 15:51-57 - "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- The bones and dust stand in stark contrast with the soul that cannot decay or be destroyed
 - Ecc. 12:7 - “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

The Testimony Of Elisha's Bones

- The dust testifies that God still has a relationship with His children even after their deaths, and that they will live with Him again
 - Isa. 25:8-9 - “He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day: Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”
 - Hosea 13:14 - “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.”

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- 2Cor. 5:1-10 - “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”