

What did Ezekiel see in the vision? **The dry bones becoming living persons.**

What is sin? **Death.**

Who can change it to life? **God.**

### THE LESSON CATECHISM.

(For the entire school.)

1. Where did the Spirit of the Lord carry the prophet? **Into the valley of dry bones.**
2. What was he to exclaim? **"Hear the word of the Lord."**
3. What was the effect? **The dry bones became an exceeding great army.**
4. What is the gracious promise of the GOLDEN TEXT? **"I will put my Spirit within you."**

### NEW CHURCH CATECHISM.

80. How shall all men be brought to the judgment? At the coming of Christ all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of condemnation.

John v. 28, 29. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

### THE LESSON OUTLINE.

#### From Death to Life.

#### I. A DEAD WORLD.

1. *Valley . . . full of bones.* v. 1, 2.  
Dead in trespasses. Eph. 2. 1.  
In pleasure is dead. 1 Tim. 5. 6.
2. *The house of Israel.* v. 11.  
Our bones . . . scattered. Psa. 141. 7.  
Country is desolate. Isa. 1. 7.

#### II. THE GIVER OF LIFE.

1. *The Lord . . . will cause breath.* vs. 5, 6.  
I make alive. Deut. 32. 39.  
In him was life. John 1. 4.
2. *Will open your graves.* vs. 12, 13.  
In the graves shall hear. John 5. 28.  
The dead shall be raised. 1 Cor. 15. 52.

#### III. THE PREACHING OF LIFE.

1. *He said . . . Prophecy.* v. 4.  
How . . . hear without a preacher? Rom. 10. 14, 15.  
Woe . . . if I preach not. 1 Cor. 9. 16.

#### 2. *So I prophesied.* v. 7.

We preach Christ crucified. 1 Cor. 1. 23, 24.  
Not ourselves, but Christ. 2 Cor. 4. 5.

#### 3. *The bones came together.* v. 7.

God gave the increase. 1 Cor. 3. 5, 6.  
We preach . . . ye believed. 1 Cor. 15. 11.

#### IV. THE SPIRIT OF LIFE.

1. *Come . . . O breath.* v. 9.  
Sendeth forth thy Spirit. Psa. 104. 30.  
Until the Spirit be poured. Isa. 32. 15.
2. *Put my Spirit in you.* v. 14.  
My Spirit upon thy seed. Isa. 44. 3.  
Ye are . . . in the Spirit. Rom. 8. 9.

#### V. A LIVING CHURCH.

1. *They lived and stood.* v. 10.  
Thy dead . . . shall live. Isa. 26. 19.  
Ransomed . . . shall return. Isa. 35. 10.
2. *In your own land.* v. 14.  
A tenth . . . shall return. Isa. 6. 13.  
All Israel shall be saved. Rom. 11. 26.

### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

The fortunes of Israel had, as we have seen in former lessons, fallen to their lowest condition. The temple was in ashes; the city was destroyed; the throne of David was cast down; a mournful silence was brooding over the wasted lands, and all that was left of the chosen people was a company of captives in Chaldea, whose dethroned and blinded king lay pining in Nebuchadnezzar's prison. The picture which represented the state of Israel before the eyes of the mourning prophet was that of a valley white with the skeletons of a dead host. By the command of God, Ezekiel began to prophesy, giving to the dry bones the divine promise of returning life. At his word there is a rushing, and everywhere the fleshless bones are united; the muscles and the skin appear upon them, and an army of soulless corpses covers the plain. Now the winds are summoned to bring their breath to the dead, and as it fans their faces bosoms heave, cheeks flush, redder, life pulses through every heart, and those that an hour ago lay throughout the plain as scattered bones now stand upon their feet as the host of the Lord, a regenerated Israel, throbbing with new life, and beaming with hope for the centuries to come.

**Verse 1. The hand of the Lord was upon me.** A man's arm bended, with a mallet in the hand, is to this day a popular symbol of strength. **Carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord.** There seems to be a care throughout Ezekiel's phraseology to indicate that his spirit only was