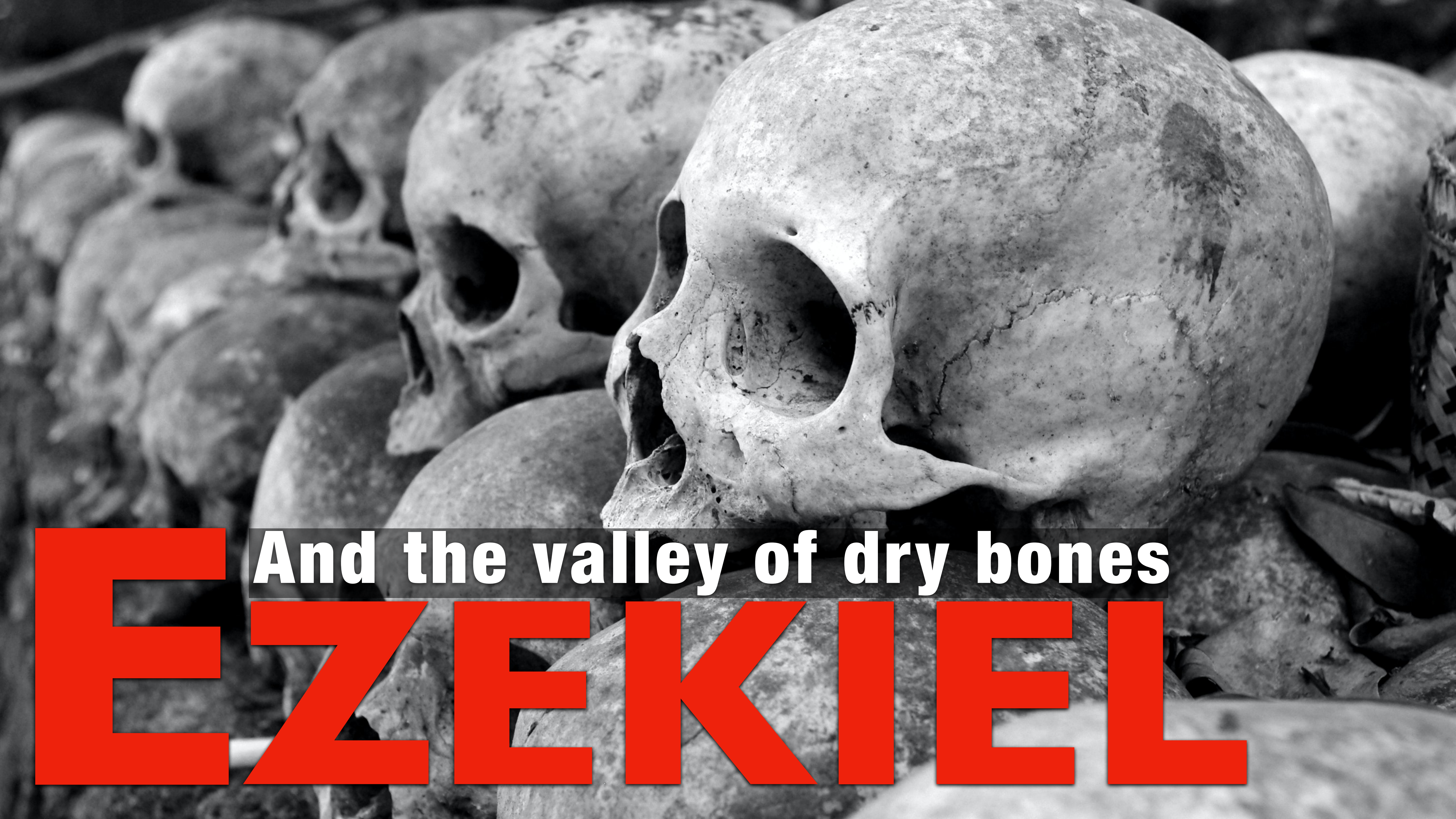




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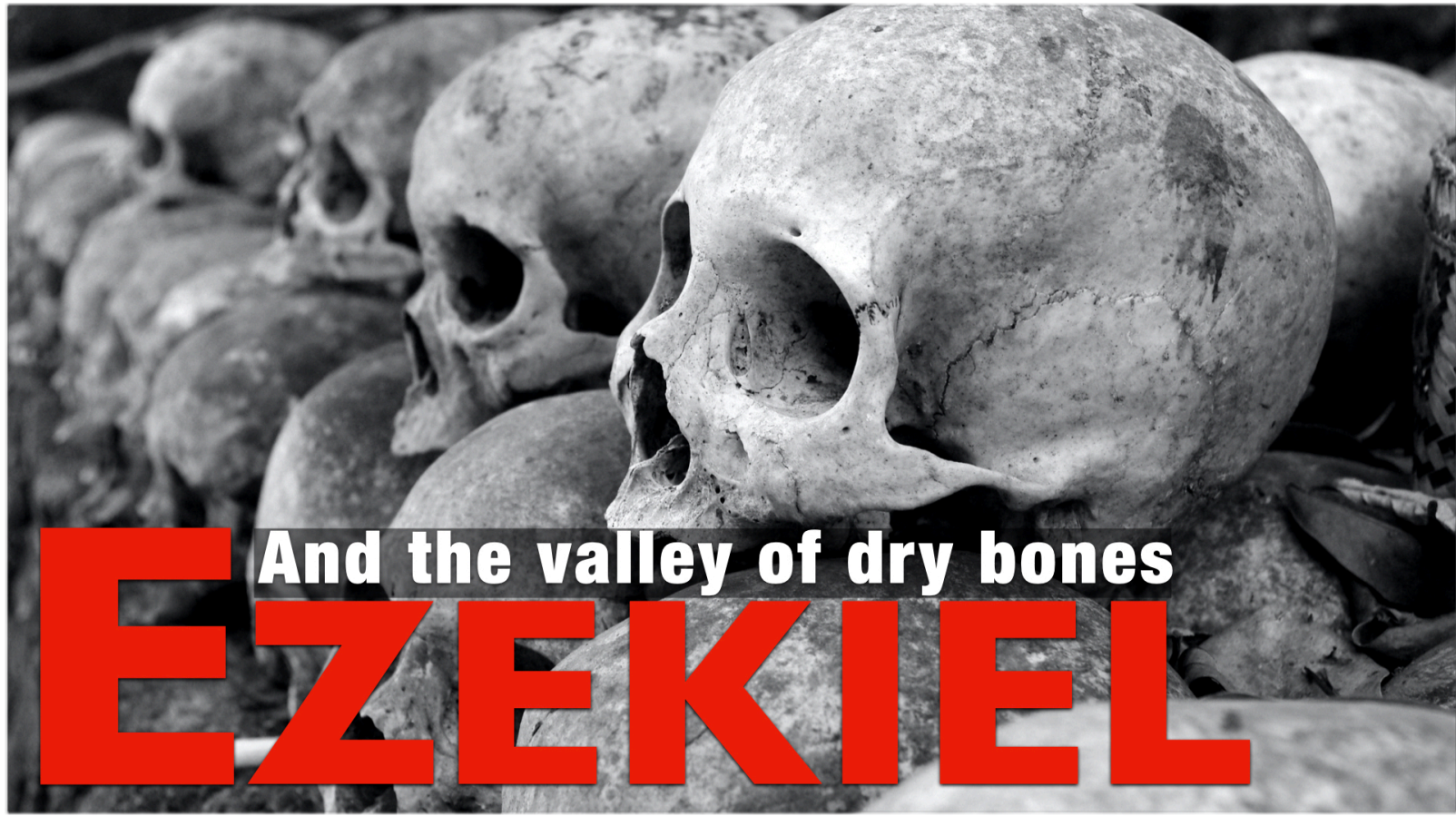




**And the valley of dry bones**

# **EZEKIEL**





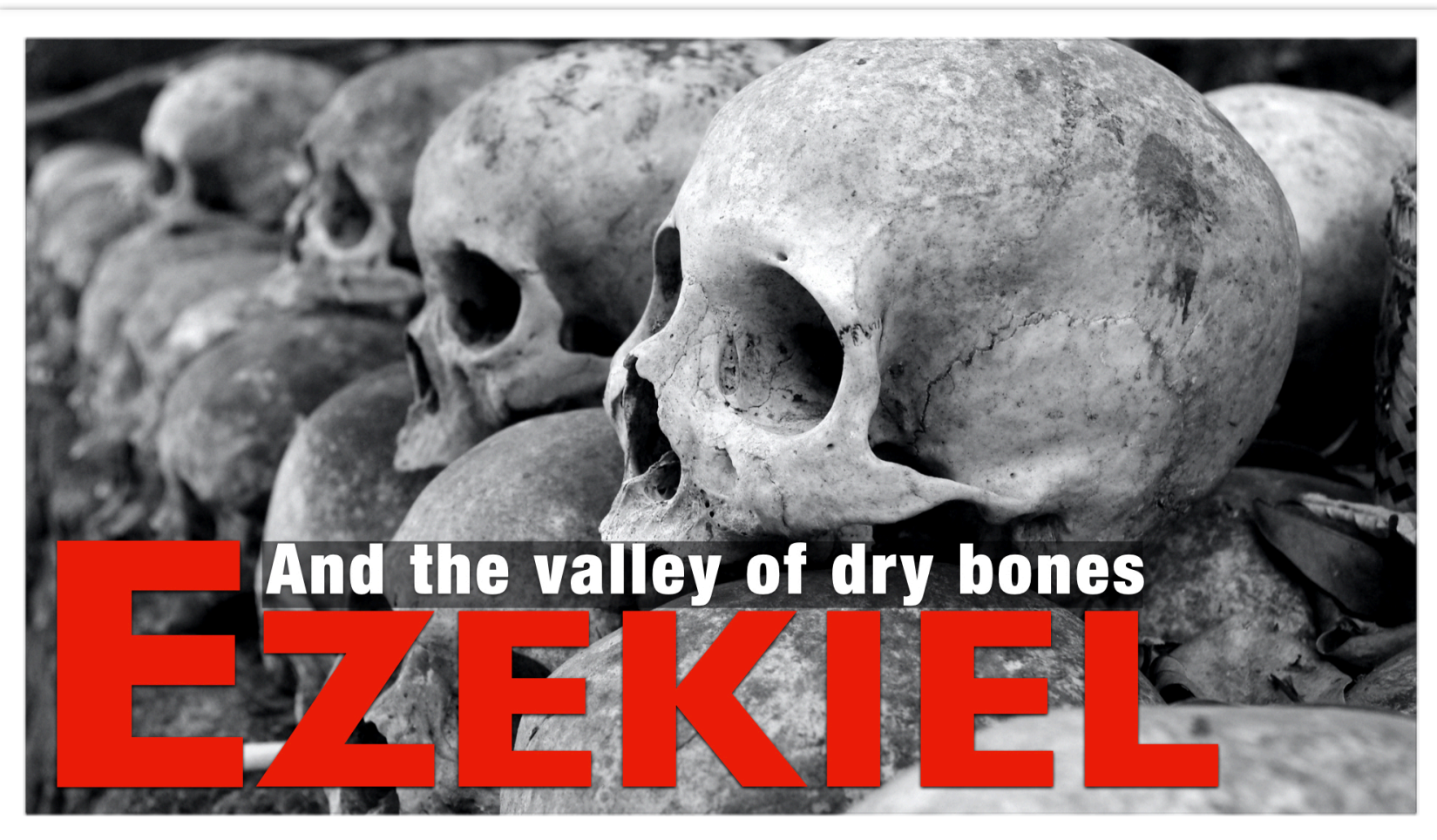
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ...

- Ezekiel's prophecy was punctuated by incredibly vivid images and actions
  - 1.1ff: the awesome picture of the glory of God
    - men, beasts, angelic beings • wings, wheels, noise, eyes, firmament
  - 2.9ff: the commission of Ezekiel
    - eat this scroll • first sweet • then bitter • speak my words to impudent souls
  - 3.16ff: Ezekiel the watchman
    - hear my word • give my warnings • tell my people "you shall surely die"
  - 4.1ff: pictures on a clay tablet
    - draw a city • build a siege wall and mound • include camps & battering rams





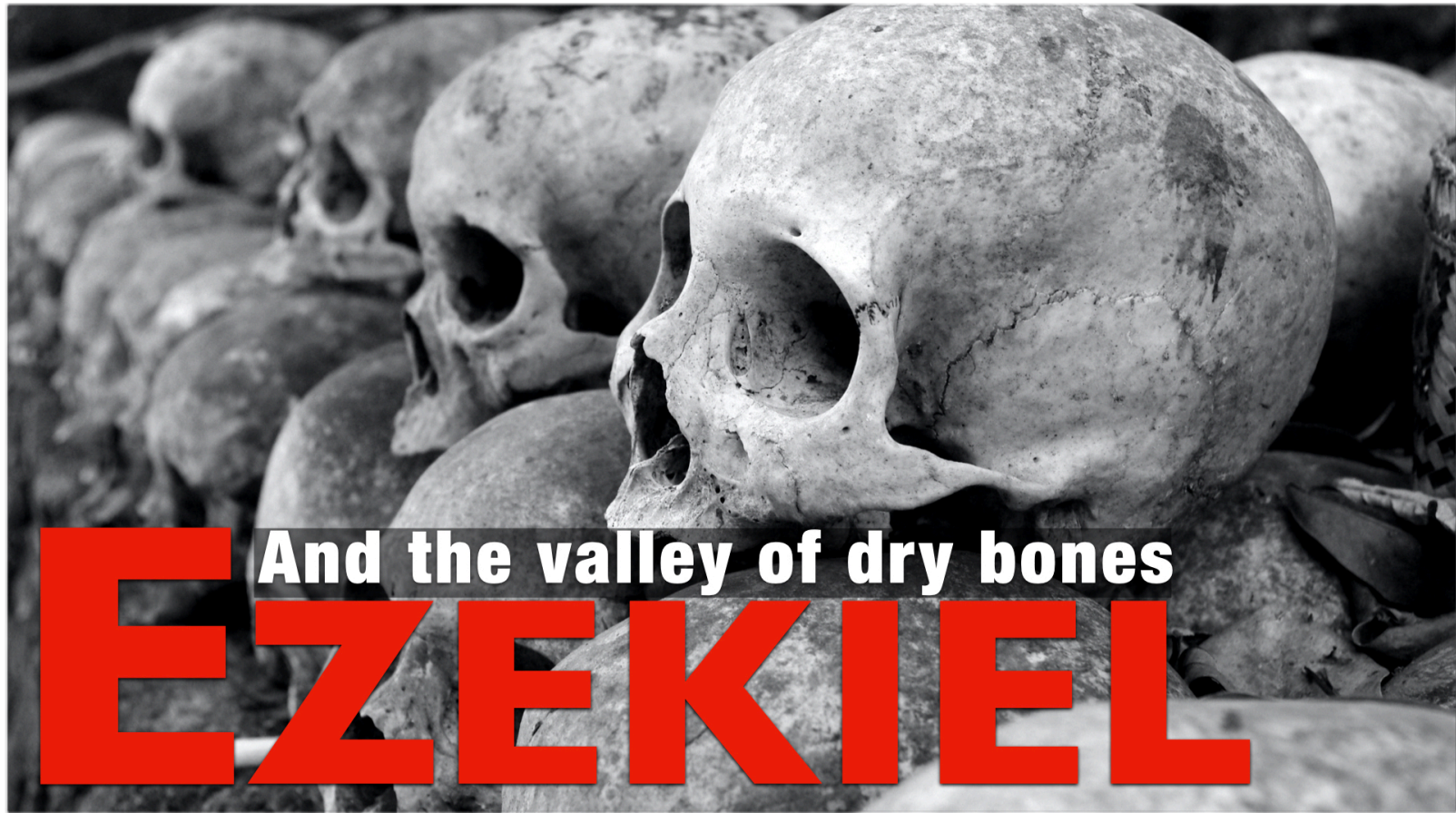
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ...

- Ezekiel's prophecy was punctuated by incredibly vivid images and actions
  - 4.4ff: lie on your left side • lie on your right side
    - the number of days (years) represents Israel's sin & Israel's punishment
  - 4.9ff: Ezekiel's diet
    - indicated the length of time Israel would "eat defiled bread"/be punished
  - 5.1ff: Ezekiel at the barber shop
    - separate your cut hair into thirds • 1/3 burned, 1/3 killed, 1/3 scattered
  - 6.1ff: Ezekiel, go preach against the mountains (cf 36.1ff)
    - tell them to hear • warn them of swords, destruction, desolation, death





And the valley of dry bones

**EZEKIEL**

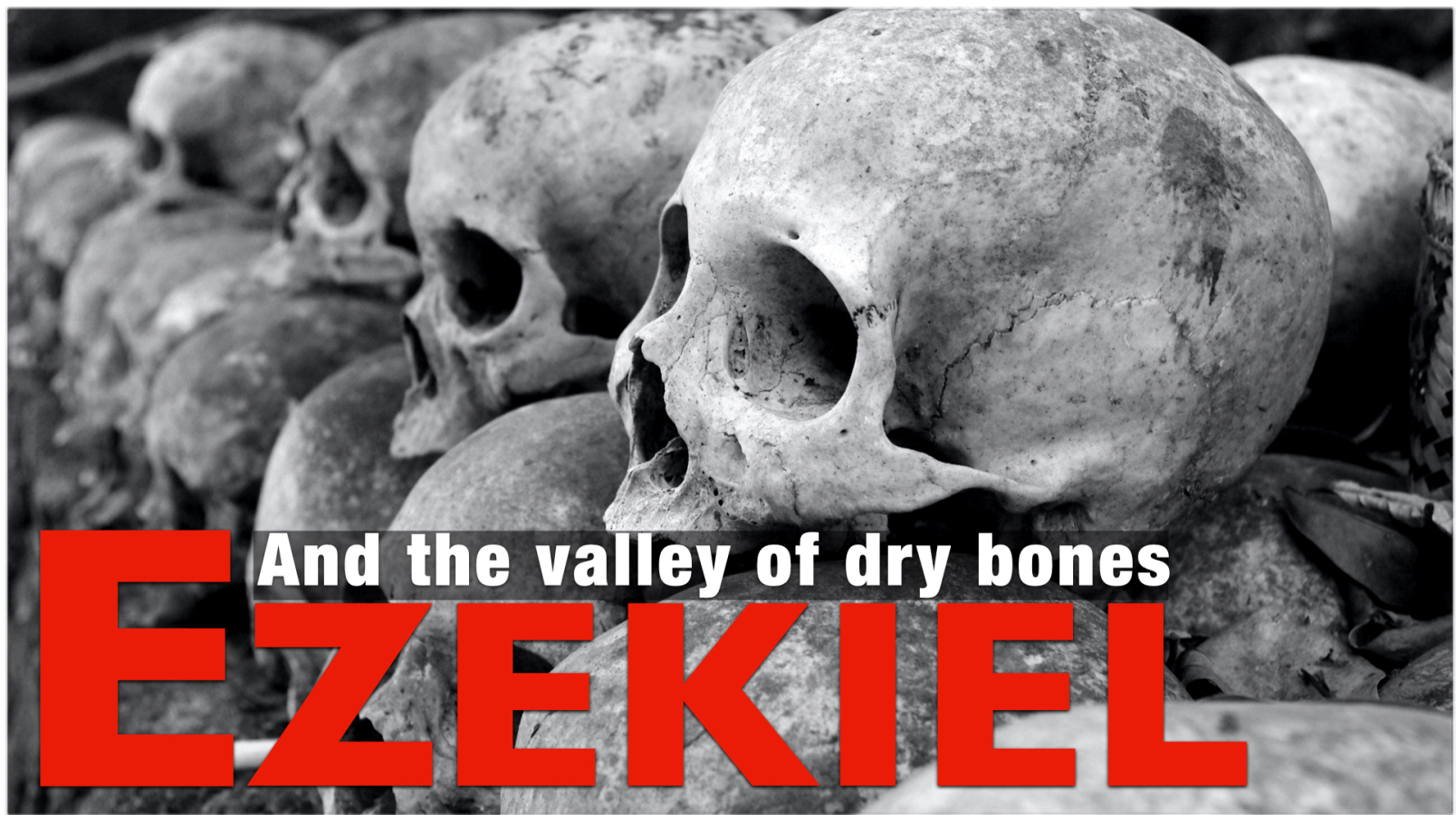
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • overview
  - Ezekiel 36 - **new** towns • **new** and fruitful gardens • **new** physical blessings • **new** spiritual blessings (hearts, spirits, covenant) • **new** start in Canaan
  - Ezekiel 37 - **death** and **despair** in a valley filled with **dead/dry bones**
  - 12 years in to captivity - 33.21 • Jerusalem captured/conquered • people died/scattered • temple destroyed
- God asked Ezekiel: “Can these **bones** live again?”
  - Ezekiel said “O Lord GOD, **You know**”





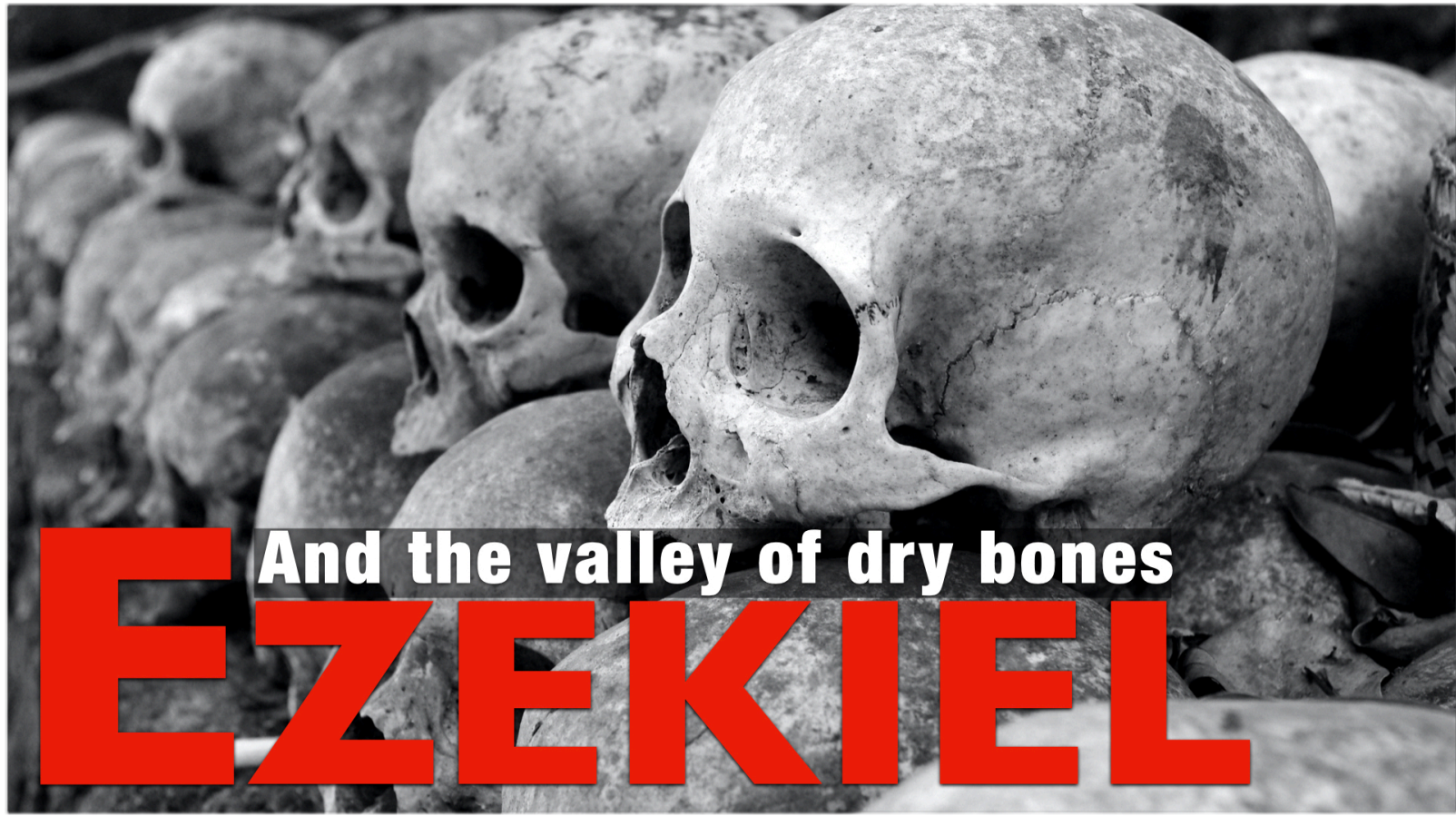
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - Ezekiel had a vision • 37.1-3
    - God brought him to a valley filled with bones
    - Ezekiel passed by them and saw that ..
      - There were many bones in the valley
      - They were all very dry
  - God asked Ezekiel this question: “Son of man, can these bones live?”
  - Ezekiel responded: “O lord GOD, You know.” • Rom 4.17





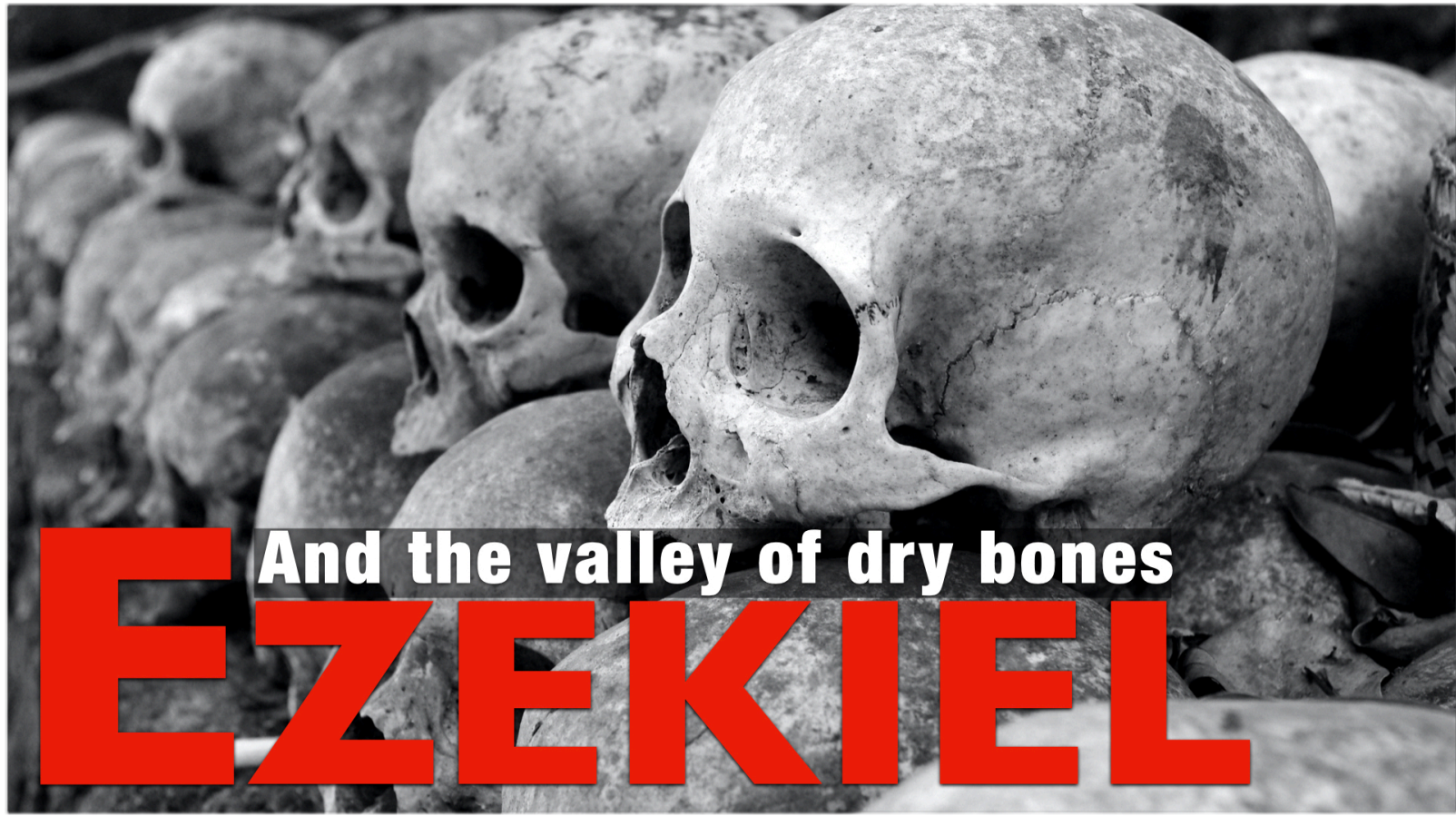
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - God directed Ezekiel to “prophecy to these bones” • 37.4-6
    - Tell them to hear God’s word
    - Let them know that God will ...
      - Cause breath and life to be in them
      - Put sinews and flesh on them
      - Cover them with skin
      - And repeating what he started with, give them breath and life
  - When they were “resurrected” they “shall know that I am the LORD.”





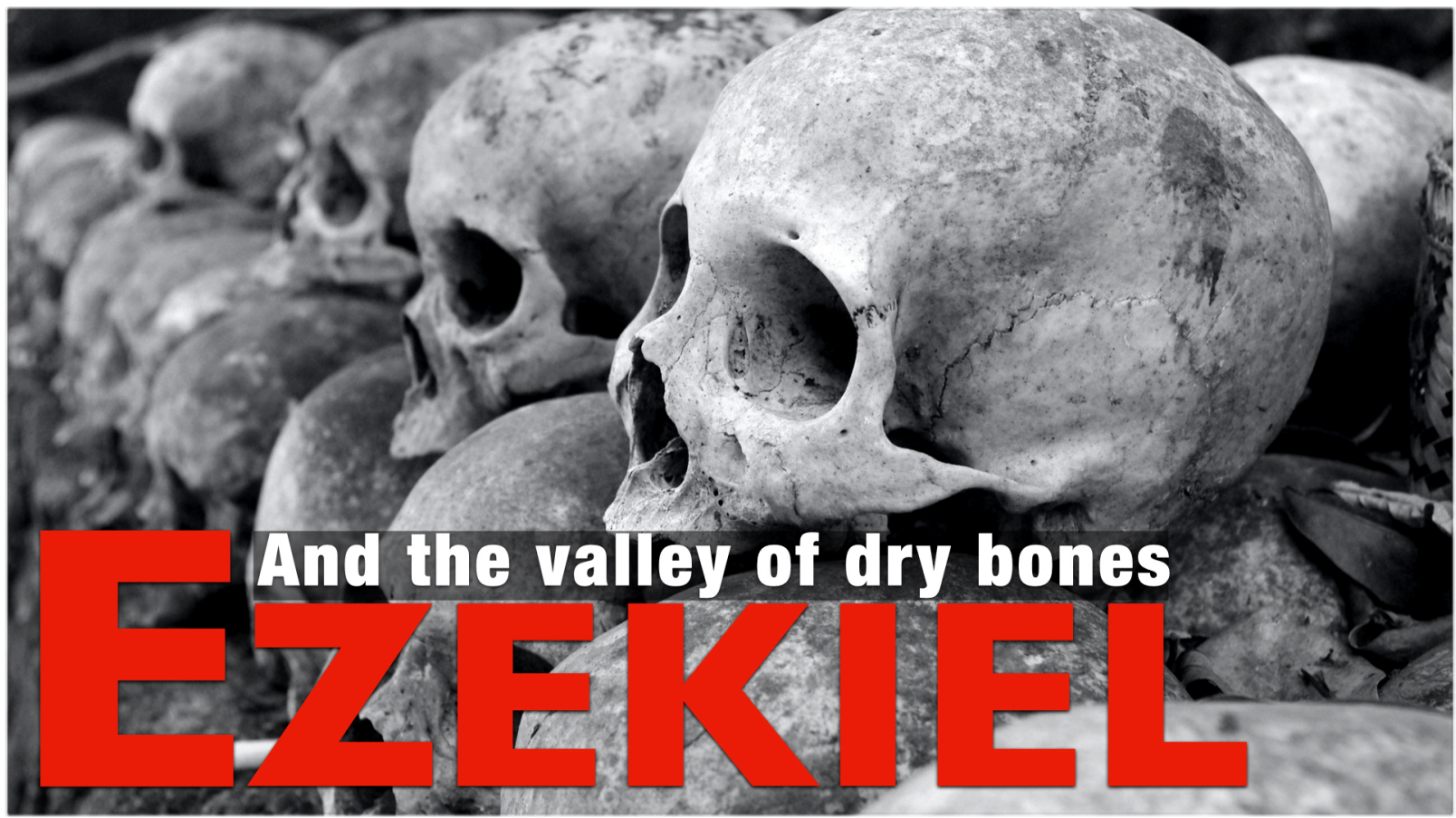
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - Ezekiel followed God's directive ... • 37.7-8
    - He prophesied ...
    - And as he did so he heard a noise
    - There was a rattling sound as the bones came together
    - When he looked he saw sinews and flesh added to the bones
    - And then skin covered these "new" bodies
    - But, at this point ... they were still not alive





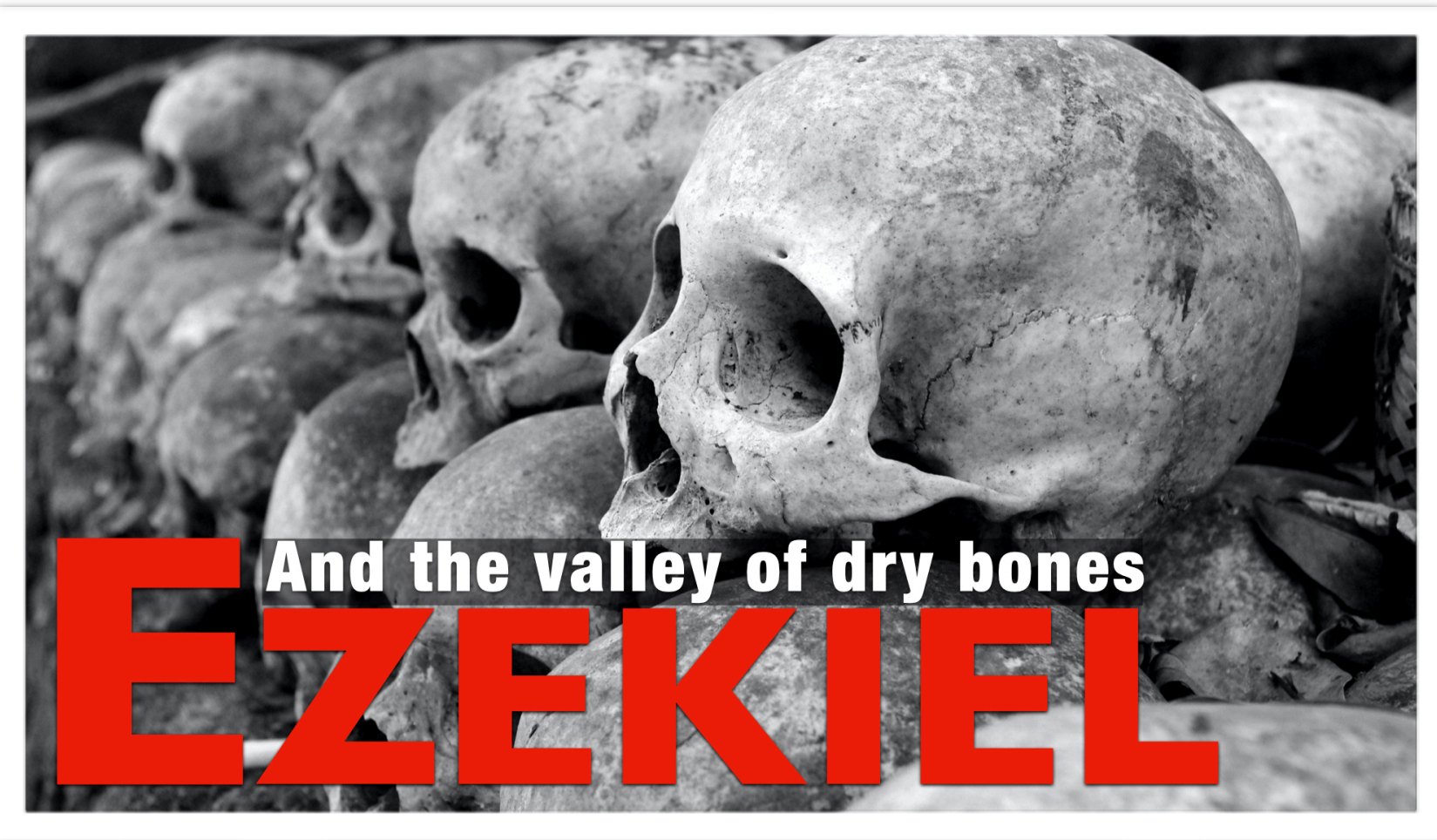
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - God prompted Ezekiel to prophesy again • 37.9-10
    - God told Ezekiel to “prophesy to the breath ...”
    - Tell the breath to come from the winds into these bodies that they might live
    - Ezekiel did as he was told
    - And breath came to the bodies
    - They lived ... and they stood
    - And they became a large army





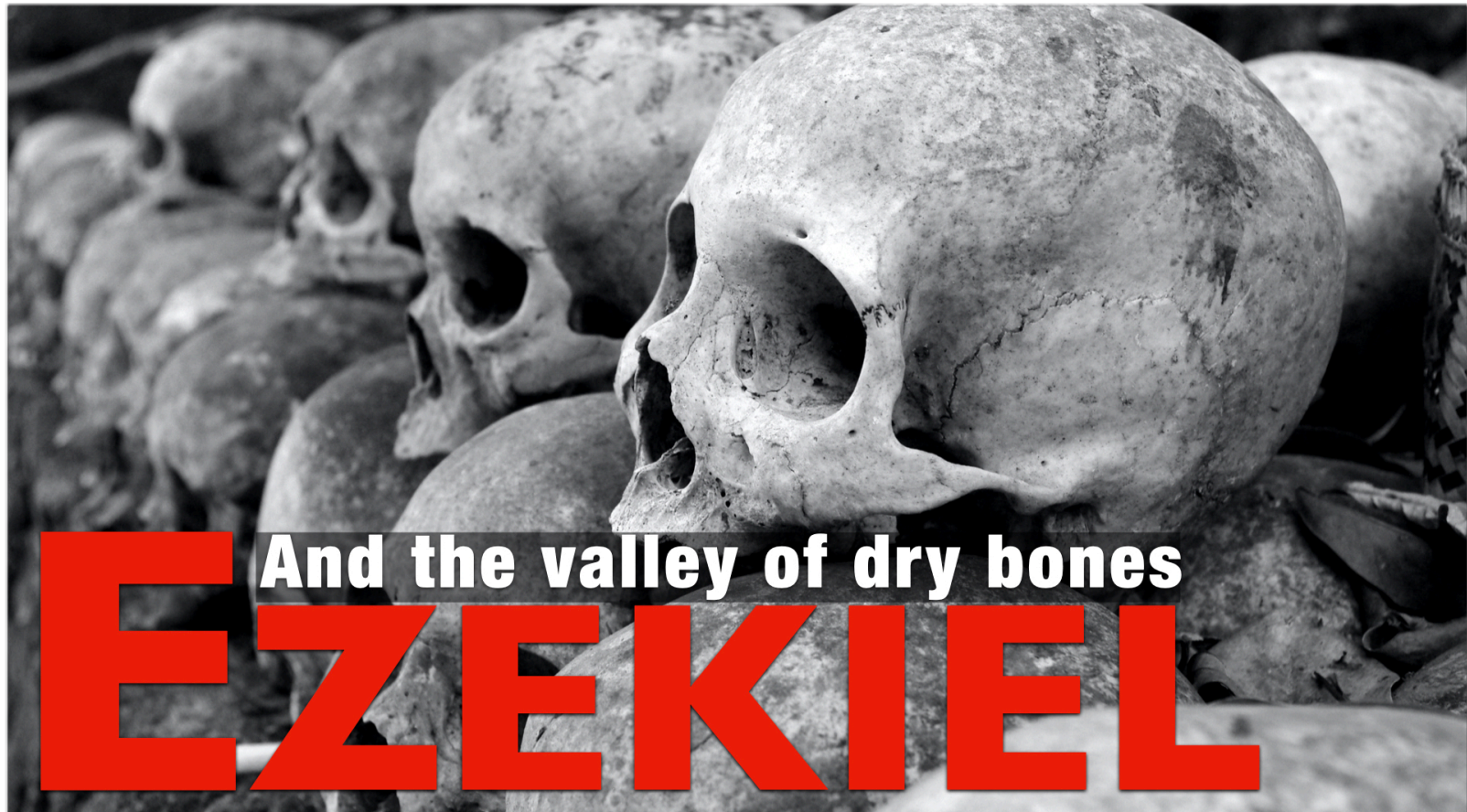
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - God spoke to Ezekiel again ... • 37.11-14
    - He told him what the vision meant
    - “These bones are the whole house of Israel.”
    - They — all Israel — said, in effect,
      - That our “bones are dry”
      - And “our hope is lost”
      - And that we are “cut off” (dead, cf. Eph 2.1-3)





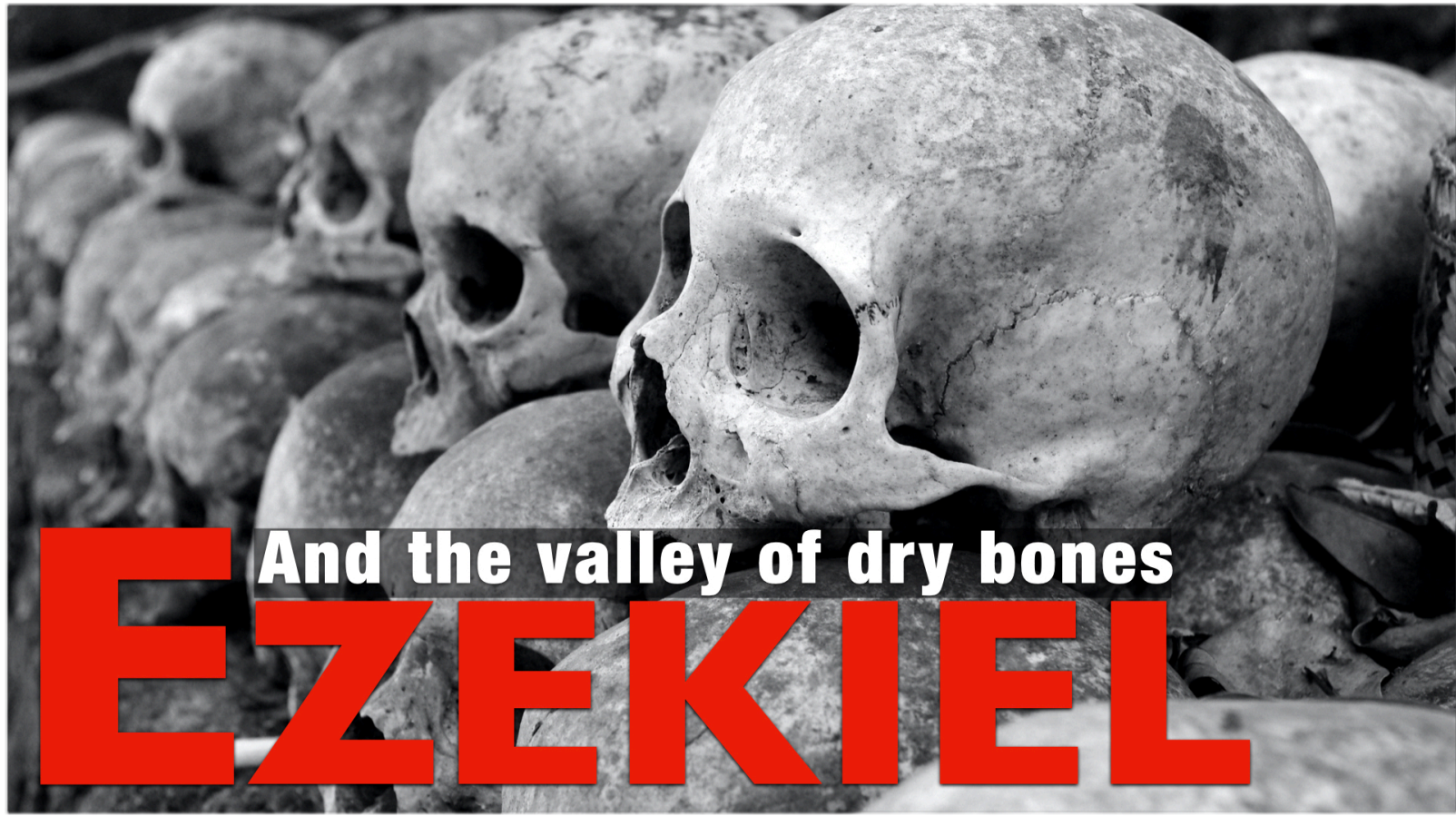
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - Ezekiel told Israel what God said about the matter ...
    - Addressing them as “My people,” God said ...
    - “I will open your graves ...”
    - “Cause you to come up from your graves ...”
    - “And bring you into the land of Israel.”
    - When you see this, “you shall know that I am the LORD”





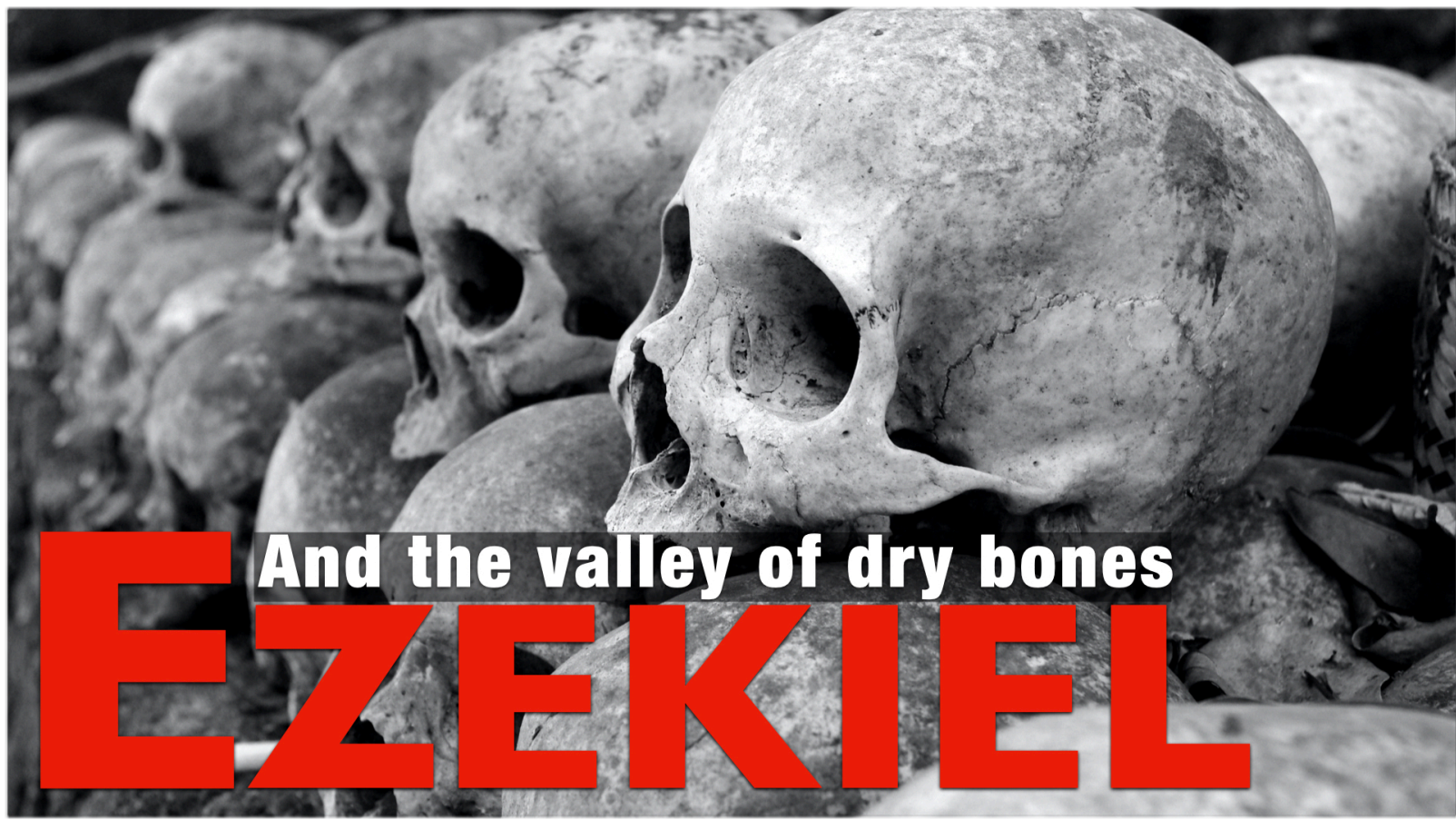
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- Ezekiel 37 • outline
  - Repeating what he just said through Ezekiel, God stated that
    - “I will put My Spirit in you ...” • cf 36.24-28
    - “You shall live”
    - “And I will place you in your own land” • cf Col 1.21
    - “Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it.”





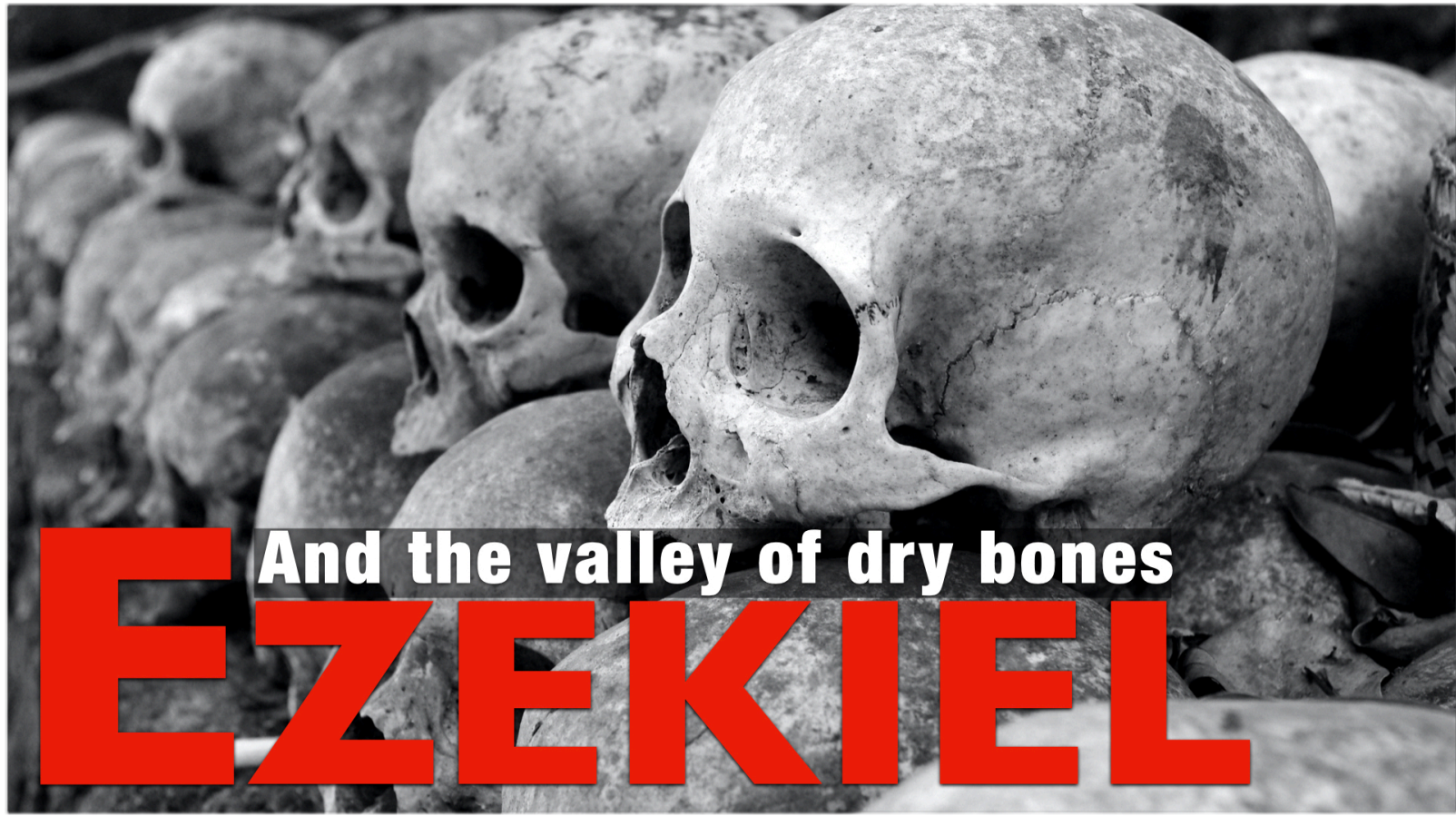
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- It's true ...
  - God, through the prophets — as far back as Moses — foretold what would happen to the nation **if they left God** ... • Deut 28.25-26
  - **God would**, in turn, **leave them** ...
  - They would be **sent out of** the land of Canaan ...
  - And they would be **taken in to** the land of their enemies
  - What God said would happen, **did happen**





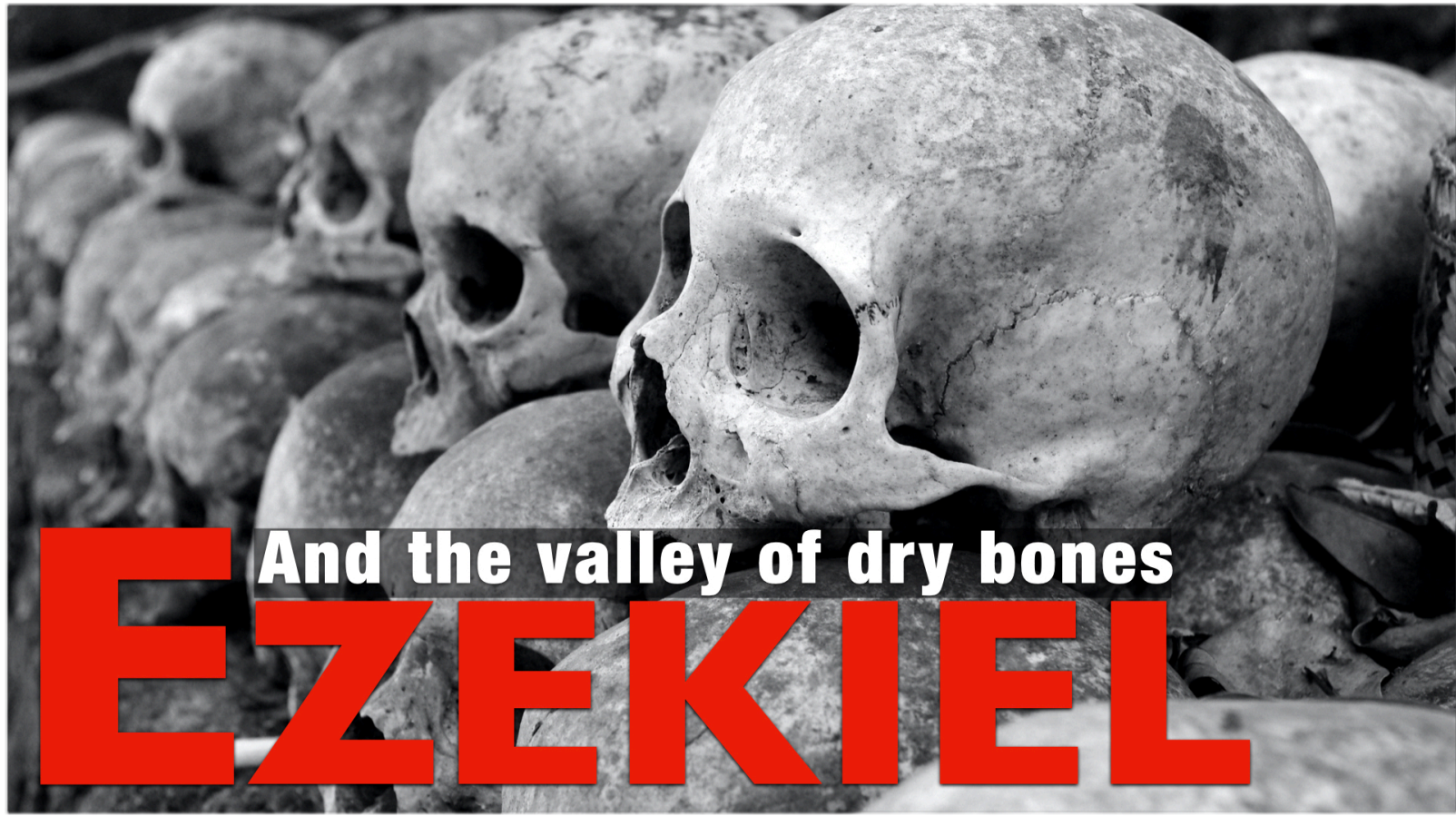
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- But it's also true ...
  - That God through the prophets **promised** that Israel **could return** ...
  - **If** they **acknowledged** their wrongdoings ...
  - **If** they **repented** and stopped worshiping other gods ...
  - And **if** they **returned** in heart and mind and soul to worship only the LORD





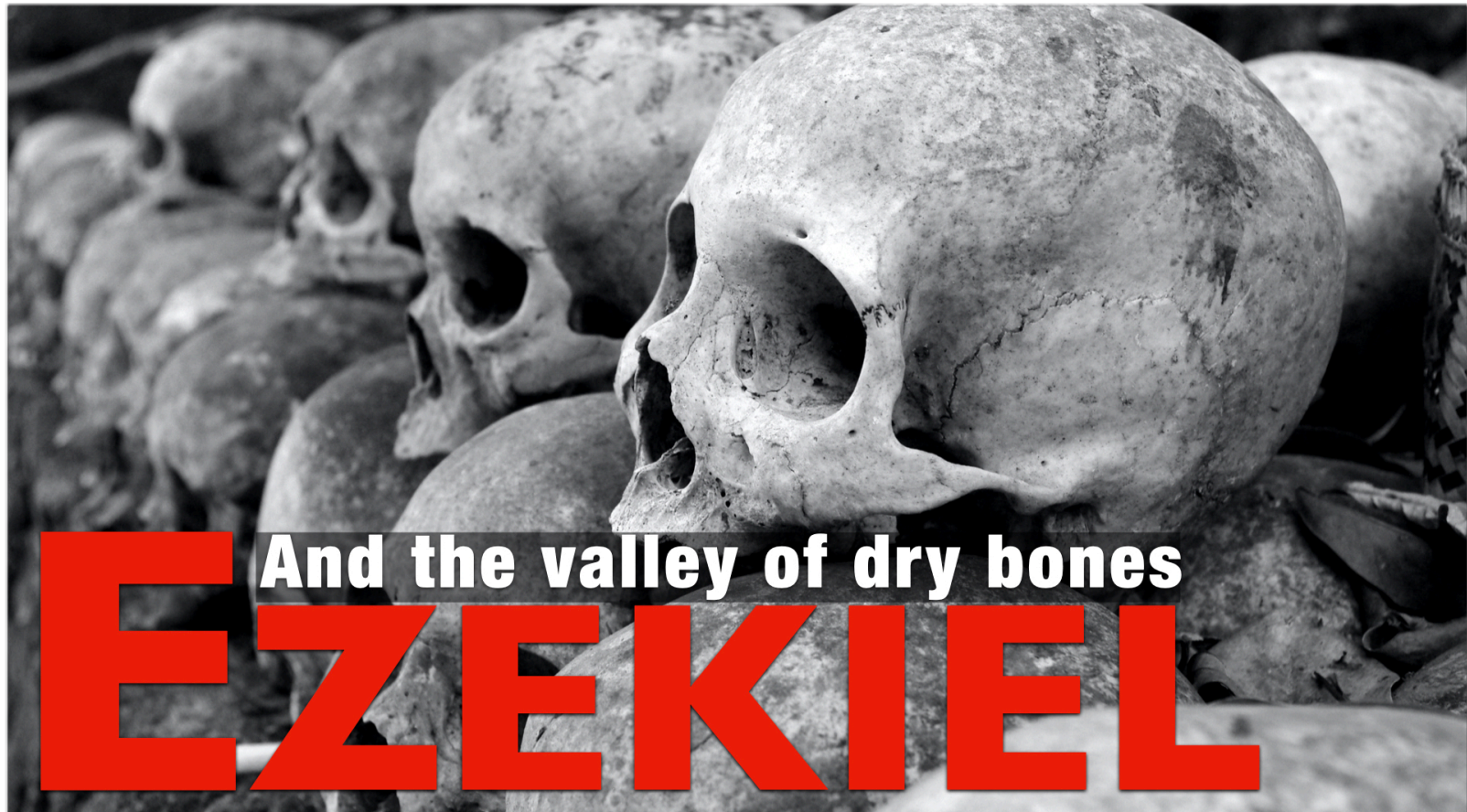
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- But it's also true ...
  - Even though Israel — both kingdoms — was “**dead**” in their sins ...
  - Even though they **admitted** as much ...
  - Even though they **saw no way** out of their predicament ...
  - God stood **ready to forgive** ...
  - God **always** stands ready to forgive





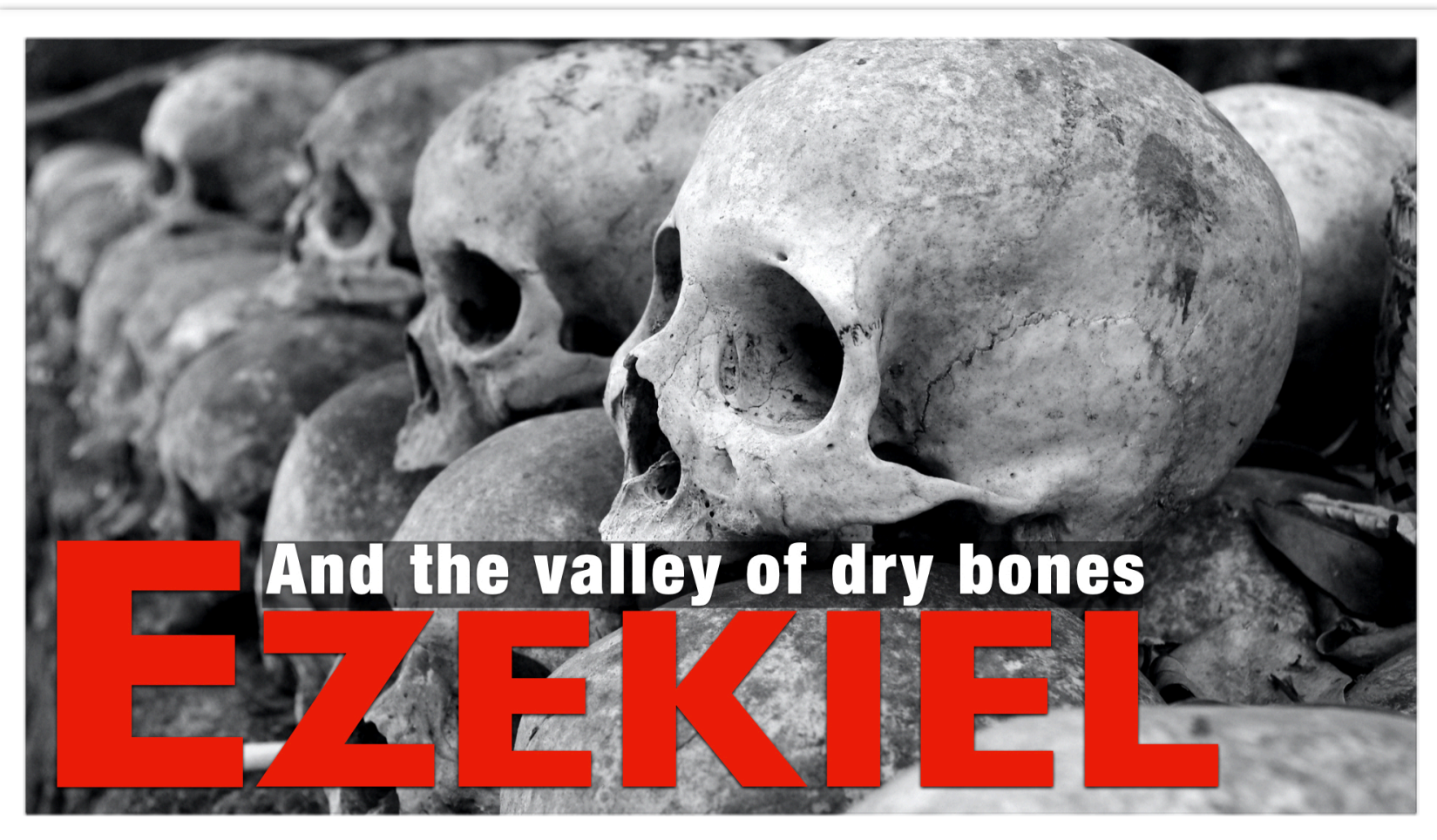
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- The hope of Israel (**then**) • Life after death
  - A valley filled with **scattered, disjointed, random bones ...**
  - Turn into **skeletons**
  - Turn into **dead bodies**
  - Turn into **living bodies**
  - Turn into a **large army**
  - Causing Israel to “**know** that I am the LORD” • 37.5, 13, 14





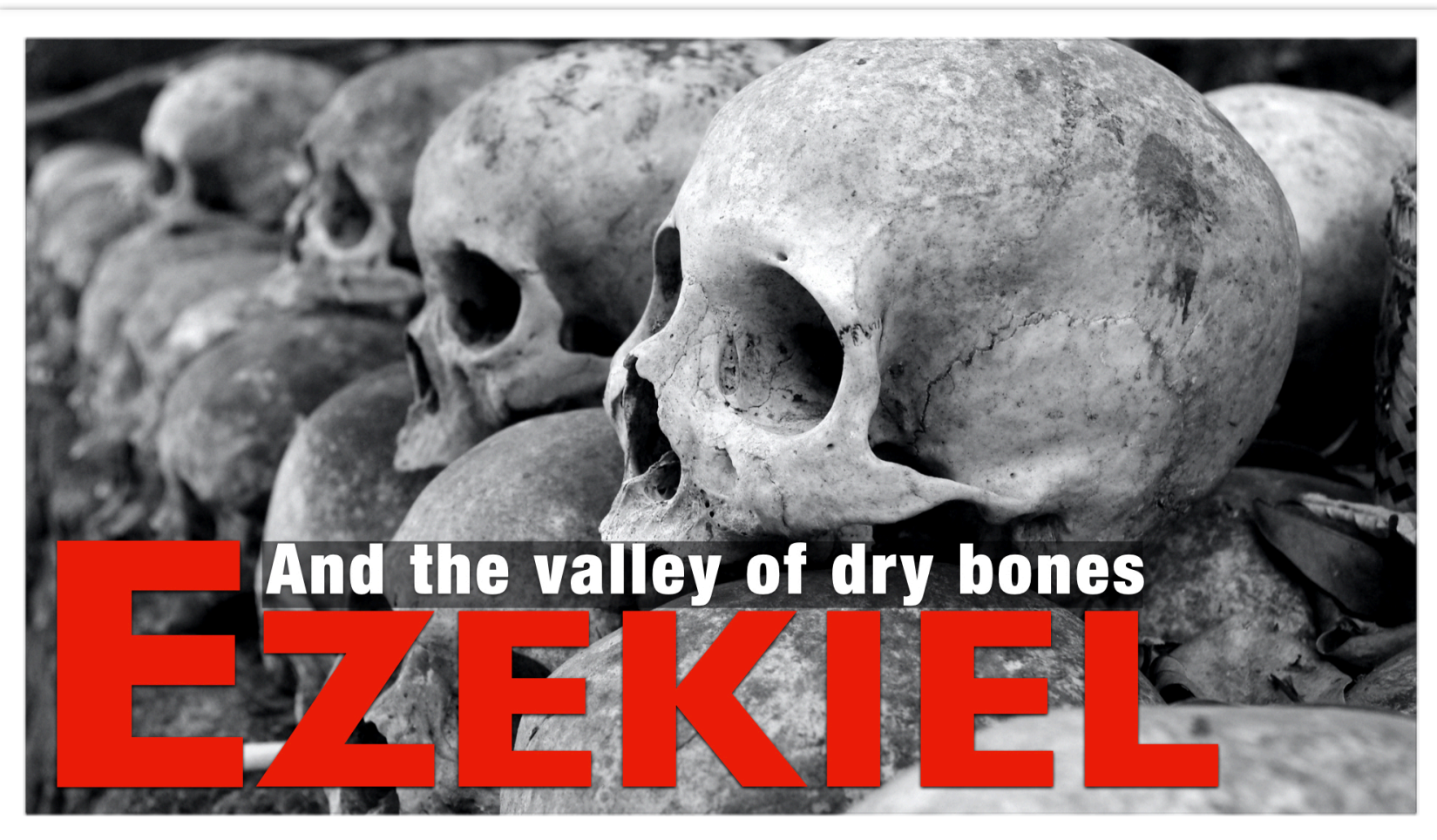
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- The hope of Israel (**now**) • Life after death
  - Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, **if** You had been here, my brother **would not have died**. But even **now I know that whatever You ask of God**, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “**Your brother will rise again.**” Martha said to Him, “**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.**” Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live**. And whoever **lives and believes in Me shall never die**. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” • Jn 11.21-27





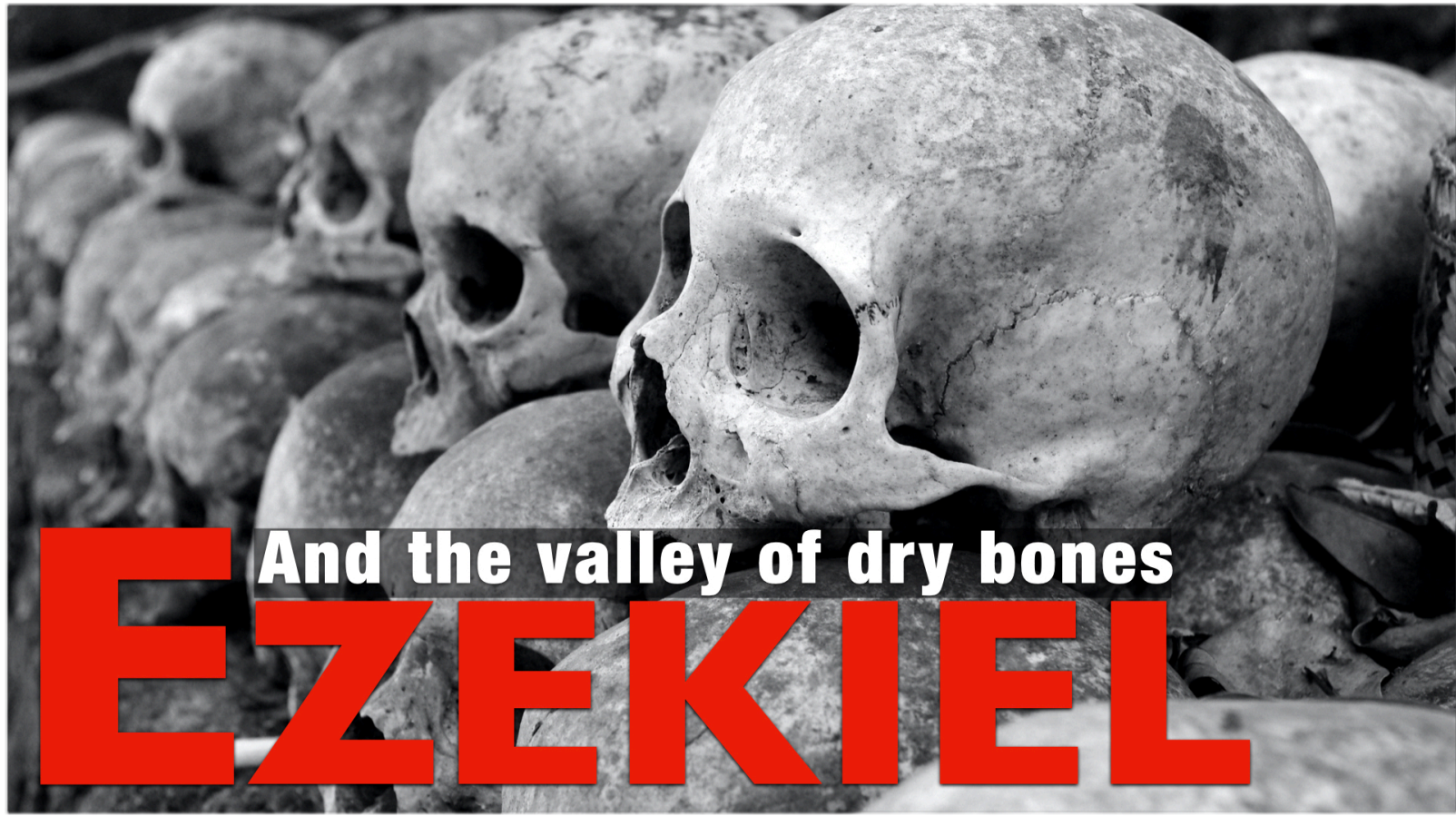
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- The hope of Israel (**now**) • Life after death
  - Martha believed that Jesus could have prevented her brother's death
  - She believed that God would do whatever Jesus asked
  - When Jesus said "your brother will rise again ..."
  - She believed that he would do so in the last day
  - She heard Jesus say "I am the resurrection and the life"





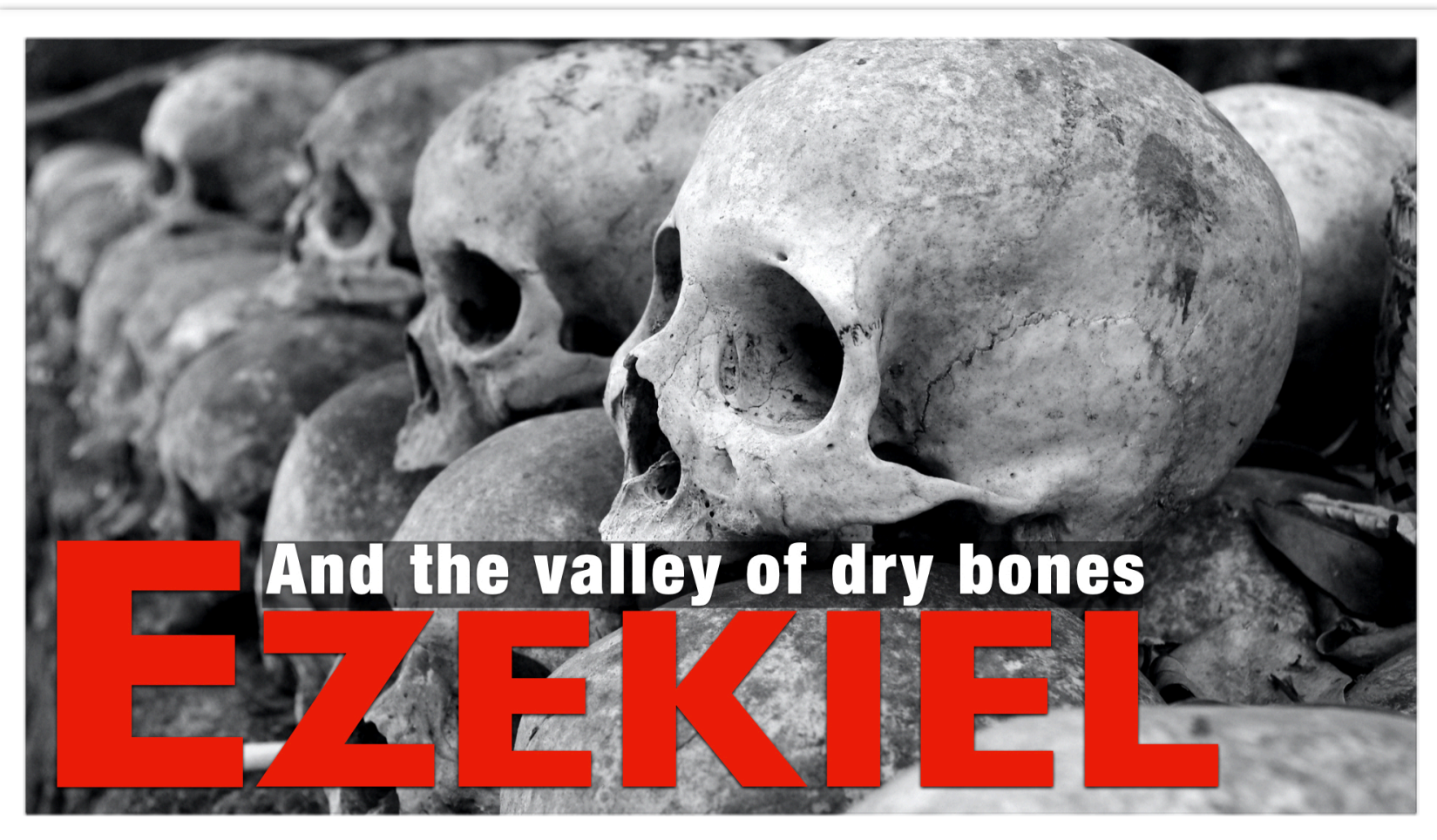
## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- The hope of Israel (**now**) • Life after death
  - She heard Jesus say that those who have faith in him would live on the other side of death ...
  - And that those who live in faith would never die (eternally)
  - When asked if she believed what Jesus said, Martha said "Yes"
  - She believed that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."





## Life After Death

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### Ezekiel's imagery ... the valley of dry bones

- The hope of Israel (**then and now**) • Life after death
  - Martha, though she believed in a resurrection **at the end of time ...**
    - Did not necessarily grasp the possibility of resurrection **in the present**
    - That's **just one resurrection** in the immediate present
  - God, through Ezekiel, wanted Israel to believe ...
    - In a **much larger resurrection ...**
    - The resurrection of **two "dead" nations**
    - Both **captured • defeated • scattered • hopeless**



