



The Valley of the Dry Bones

Jerry B. Jenkins

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A 17-year drought, earthquakes, and wildfires leave California uninhabitable and irreparable, forcing its citizens to relocate. Fewer than 1% of its population remain— by choice or necessity. But a contingency of 16 feels called of God to stay at their own risk to minister to the stragglers. Calling themselves The Holdouts, they face a clash of cultures, ethnicities, religions, and politics that pits friend against friend, with the future of the country at stake.

In the midst of the chaos, while facing their most menacing opponent, the leader of The Holdouts becomes convinced he's heard directly from God Himself. The result is a finish you'll never forget.

The Valley of the Dry Bones Details

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Author : Jerry B. Jenkins

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From Reader Review The Valley of the Dry Bones for online ebook

Carolyn Wagner says

Not my favorite Jerry Jenkins book. It wasn't terrible, but it was a little disappointing. The ending was tied up rather neatly and quickly, and I would have liked more reference to the Ezekiel passage in the Bible that is the title of the book. For those venturing into this author's books outside of the Left Behind series, "Riven" is a much better choice.

Victor Gentile says

Jerry B. Jenkins in his new book "The Valley of Dry Bones" published by Worthy Publishing gives us a novel of the End Times.

From the back cover: A 17-year drought, multiple earthquakes, and uncontrollable wildfires, leave California desolate. The United States President declares the state uninhabitable and irreparable, directing California's 39 million citizens to relocate. From the air, California looks like a vast abandoned sand box, but to a few groups of people, it's their home. With less than 1% of the population remaining in California at their own risk, the holdouts encounter a clash of cultures, ethnicities, religions, and politics that pits friend against friend with the future of California at stake.

California has been declared uninhabitable and mostly everyone has left. There are some that have nowhere to go and that is the group that Reverend Bob and his team stay behind to minister to. Due to health reasons he has to resign and move out and one of the team will take over. I believe this is an absolutely fascinating approach to hearing from God and not only ministering to the lost but to the Church as well. Zeke and the others are fascinating characters that will draw you into them so that you want to know everything that is going to happen to them. I do not recommend starting this book late at night because it will cost you sleep as you will not want to put it down. Mr. Jenkins is an excellent writer and really knows how to tell a story that will grab and keep you interest all the way through until the end.

If you missed the interview for "The Brotherhood" book one in a different series and would like to listen to it and/or interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Worthy Publishing for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Valley of Dry Bones

Author: Jerry B. Jenkins

Pages: 336

Year: 2016

Publisher: Worthy

My rating is 5 stars.

The blessing of reading books is letting your imagination take you places that bring adventure, faith and entertainment! With so much junk on TV, books truly are a great source to replace the garbage with great tales from various authors and genres. Jerry Jenkins shares with us a novel that reminded me of catastrophe movies set in California, notching up the tension with people choosing to stay to bring others the gospel even when a mass exodus has occurred.

The little group lives underground and faces not only challenges of eking out daily sustenance, but also evading enemies who would love to discover their well-hidden home. The story has characters that are faithful to the calling of following Christ, some who are sure where they are with God and others who are against them because of their message about God.

The small band of people eventually must chose a new leader and God is way ahead of them on that one! Readers will enjoy seeing how Ezekiel Thorpe responds to God's voice and directions when to him and the others he lives with it seems to make no sense and even very dangerous. The lies told by those who are against them get so blown out of proportion that the government is hunting them and plans on arresting them! How is this small group without any modern conveniences like internet, phones or anything else supposed to get the truth out?

With some internal struggles and external pressures, readers will not want to put the book down until the read the very last page. The novel reflects the courage it takes to listen and obey God no matter what anyone thinks or says. There is also learning to reach out to others in a multitude of ways that are concrete along with sharing the hope found in Jesus! While it is listed as an end times novel, I never really got that sense at all while reading the book. I came away more with how God can use those willing to open their hearts to Him, lay down their lives for Him and reach out to those God brings to you to share the message of Jesus with. What an exceptional novel Jerry Jenkins has written and one that deserves reading and sharing with those who just love a good story!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Renee says

The book started off a little slow but when I finally focused on it, I couldn't put it down. Loved reading the scriptures throughout the story and seeing how the characters really started seeing how they needed to trust what God was leading them to do. My all time favorite bible verse is John 3:16, and it was mentioned several times. Glad I stuck with reading it.

C.J. Darlington says

3.5 stars. I always look with interest at whatever Jerry B. Jenkins writes. He's committed to his craft and brought us hits like Left Behind. He obviously knows his stuff! His newest, The Valley of the Dry Bones, turns back to the contemporary, end-times-esque stories that made him a household name. I love the concept

of a drought-ridden California becoming a wasteland, and I was drawn right into this tale in an action prologue that tugs at your heartstrings. Chapter 1 picks up a few years later, telling the story of Ezekial Thorpe (Zeke for short) and his family who live in an underground compound hidden from desperate criminals and the government alike. Devout to God and family, Zeke is a character we can root for. Unfortunately, he becomes somewhat *un*-relatable when he starts hearing audibly from God. Like the prophet of old, Zeke embraces his new calling with conviction and devotion.

Maybe it was the cover or the description, but I pictured this book a thriller and found it somewhat disappointing when I realized it would be better labeled a contemporary tale of a man growing into his prophetic calling. Even though there's danger and some intrigue over a possible spy within their midst, there wasn't a lot of mystery or even high stakes until the very end.

Left Behind was a novel that could be given to non-believers; The Valley of the Dry Bones is a book for the church. That's not a bad thing, but there are many moments that felt, dare I say it, a tad preachy. The verdict? The Valley of the Dry Bones is like a Kendrick Brothers film. If you enjoyed War Room and Fireproof, you will love The Valley of the Dry Bones.

Megalion says

As promised, this is a partial post apocalypse story set in California.

In a way, it's reminiscent of the recent Mad Max movie. Water is precious. The federal government has ordered a complete withdrawal of all citizens from it and declared it a forbidden zone.

It's no secret that in reality, Southern California, Nevada and outlying areas are in an ongoing water crisis. I live there in fact which was a personal reason for wanting to read this book.

And there is already a real life villain in the form of the megacorporation Nestle who has been raping the few naturally occurring reservoirs of billions of gallons of water for almost nothing. One of their spokesmen has gone on record saying that water is a privilege, not a right. Which is why they've no intention of doing the honorable thing and ceasing the rape.

I digress.... back to this FICTIONAL story.

Despite the federal mandate, there are folks who are determined to stick it out. The group we follow are missionaries who stay behind because they feel tasked to minister to others who stayed behind and attempt to convert them still.

They live in daily danger of marauders who attack small enclaves of people to steal their water. And then sell it to other groups as a premium.

It's a decent adult dystopian story. Religion is a key part of the story and Christianity is not the only one present in the story. However, there was a bit too strong of an emphasis that Christianity is the only true way despite the way the story plays out.

Enough that I would classify this also in the christian fiction genre as promoting Christianity.

Thank you to the publisher for the free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Lizzy Bueckert says

Great adventure and full of action! I loved the characters right from the start and wish the story went longer. Filled with scripture and a terrific message!

Ashley Blankenship says

When your first read of the New Year is a great big flop. ? I was expecting so much more from Jenkins. I thought it would be edge of your seat, action packed, and thrilling. I got halfway through before I decided it was not even worth my finish. I have never invested so much time in a book that I didn't finish but I couldn't endure it anymore. The story line was moving so slow and I was reaping no benefits from this book; little to no entertainment value, little to no spiritual benefit, nothing. I was halfway through the book and feeling like the story was never going to unfold. The characters were not interesting or intriguing. I got nothing from this book. ? So I'm putting it aside and moving on to another "first book of the year". I'm disappointed.

Carol Mae Derrick says

Great book

Again Jerry Jenkins has outdone himself. Book full of faith , excitement and most of all, to pray in all circumstances. A must read..

Cherrilynn Bisbano says

Want to know what happens to the United States in the near future? Jerry B. Jenkins captures the possibilities. Friendships and faith are tested in this must read novel. I visualized each scene, the marks of a brilliant writer. Mad Max meets Left Behind. Thank you, Jerry for your dedication to good story telling.

Karen R says

Interesting futuristic tale set in a drought devastated California, with some references to the book of Ezekial. Some dialogue was firmly based on Scripture, with a main character named Zeke acting as a teacher-prophet, leading an underground group left behind in the evacuated disaster zone. Readers who like sci-fi or apocalyptic fiction with faith elements may like this book. It reminded me of the movie I Am Legend, except with biblical references. More character driven than an action adventure. Not a comfortable read for me, but dystopian fiction fans may enjoy it.

(Book provided by NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for my honest review.)

Janice Workman says

Interesting take on end-times. Fairly predictable. I liked the mix of cultures, personalities and back-grounds.

Joan says

In this futuristic tale, California, victim of a seventeen-year drought, wildfires, and one too many earthquakes, has been declared uninhabitable and its citizens are forced to relocate. The Holdouts are a small group of Californians who remain at their own risk, believing God calls them to minister to the stragglers. Their lives aren't easy, but they persevere. And then, the leader of The Holdouts becomes convinced that God is speaking directly to him.

Character-driven and short on action, this semi-dystopian, end-of-times tale in the vein of the "Left Behind" stories has, at times, a tendency to fall into "preachiness," the result of which is to pull the reader out of the narrative. Despite its Christian theme and Biblical references, readers may be disappointed with the blandness and predictability of this tale.

Jessica says

4.8

When a series of natural disasters leaves the state of California a wasteland, the U.S. government declares it uninhabitable. Less than 1% of the state's population stays behind as all other relocate. Those who stay either could not leave, or decided to stay behind. One such group of 16 call themselves The Holdouts. They minister to those who could not leave, and help them survive.

But there could be trouble brewing among the group, and the leader is convinced that God has begun speaking to him directly.

This one is a page-turner. Full, rich characters, which I've come to expect from Jenkins, and a modern perspective on a Biblical vision. The story also has lessons on pride, forgiveness, salvation, and God's will and plans.

A scripture that came to mind when reflecting on the story was Romans 8:28 – "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

The wrap-up felt a little abrupt, but I definitely recommend this one.

Joshua says

A great and engaging plot that takes a different view on the chosen prophet genre. You quickly become endeared to Zeke and the rest of the compound's inhabitants, forming lasting bonds through their connection in Christ.
