## Breath of Hope: Revival from the Valley of Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

## Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ${ }^{2}$ He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ${ }^{3} \mathrm{He}$ asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."
${ }^{4}$ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ${ }^{5}$ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ${ }^{6}$ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"
${ }^{7}$ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ${ }^{8}$ l looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

## Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)

${ }^{9}$ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' ${ }^{10}$ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-a vast army.
${ }^{11}$ Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ${ }^{12}$ Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LorD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ${ }^{13}$ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ${ }^{14}$ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

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| Egypt | Assyria | Babylon | Persia |
| N. \& S. Kingdoms |  | Judah Alone | Post-Exile |
| $\triangle$ Solomon dies | ${ }_{721 \mathrm{BC}}$ Israel falls $\underbrace{}_{587 \mathrm{BC}} \quad \triangle$ Cadah falls |  |  |
| Major Prophets | Isaiah | Jeremiah/Lam Daniel Ezekiel | m. <br> el |
| $\begin{array}{lr}\text { Minor } & \text { Obadiah } \\ \text { Prophets } & \text { Joel }\end{array}$ | Jonah Micah Amos Hosea | Nahum <br> Zephaniah Habakkuk | Haggai Malachi Zechariah |
| Other <br> Prophets <br> \& OT Books | lisha |  | Esther Ezra Nehemiah |






## Ezekiel 37:1-14

I. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-2)
II. The Question of Possibility (Ezekiel 37:3)
III. Prophesying to the Bones (Ezekiel 37:4-6)
IV. The Bones Come Together (Ezekiel 37:7-8)
V . The Breath of Life (Ezekiel 37:9-10)
VI. The Meaning Revealed
(Ezekiel 37:11-14)

## I. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-2)

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ${ }^{2} \mathrm{He}$ led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.
A. The Hopeless Situation

1. Israel's Despair - Represented by dry bones scattered in the valley.
2. A Picture of Death and Hopelessness - The condition of the bones as 'very dry' signifies complete lifelessness.


## II. The Question of Possibility (Ezekiel 37:3)

${ }^{3}$ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."
A. "Can These Bones Live?"

1. God's Question to Ezekiel - Challenging human doubt and inviting faith.
2. Our Own Valleys - Reflecting on areas of our lives that seem beyond hope.

## III. Prophesying to the Bones (Ezekiel 37:4-6)

${ }^{4}$ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ${ }^{5}$ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ${ }^{6}$ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' "
A. The Command to Speak Life

1. The Power of Prophetic Declaration - Ezekiel's obedience to speak as commanded.
2. The Promise of Revival - God's assurance of putting breath in the bones.

## IV. The Bones Come Together (Ezekiel 37:7-

8) 

${ }^{7}$ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ${ }^{8}$ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.
A. The Sound of Hope - The rattling as bones come together.
B. The Process of Reconstruction - Sinews, flesh, and skin; a process indicating gradual restoration.

## V. The Breath of Life (Ezekiel 37:9-10)

${ }^{9}$ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LorD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " ${ }^{10}$ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-a vast army.
A. The Call to the Four Winds - Inviting the Spirit from all directions.
B. The Infusion of Life - Breath enters the bodies, illustrating the reviving work of the Spirit.

## VI. The Meaning Revealed (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

${ }^{11}$ Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ${ }^{12}$ Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ${ }^{13}$ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ${ }^{14}$ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"

## A. The Resurrection of a Nation

1. Israel's Restoration - The bones are the house of Israel, receiving new life.
2. Our Assurance - The Spirit of God revitalizes our dry areas.


## Ezekiel 37:1-14

- Reaffirming the Message of Hope
- No situation is too dead for God's reviving power.
-The Challenge to Speak Life
- Encouraging us to speak life into our 'valleys.'
-The Invitation to Experience Revival
- An open call for those seeking spiritual renewal.
- Seeking the breath of God to bring new life to every dry area of our lives


## Reaffirming the Message of Hope

No situation is too dead for God's reviving power.

Encouraging us to speak life into our 'valleys.'


An open call for those seeking spiritual renewal.


## Seeking the

 breath of God to bring new life to every dry area of our lives
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