

# God's Powerful Presence in the Valley

## Ezekiel 37:1-14

### The Valley of Dry Bones

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath <sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> 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.' "

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> 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 from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O 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. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> 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.' "

### Sermon Outline

- I. Three Movements in the book of Ezekiel
  - a. Ezekiel gave the exiles hope by telling them his visions whereby the glory of the Lord left the temple and settled in Babylon
  - b. He emphasized that they were in exile because of their rebellion.
  - c. Ezekiel reveals a God who is able to restore and resurrect a people when all seems lost.
- II. God's Powerful Presence is in the valleys of our lives
  - a. For Israel, they didn't see God's presence.
    - i. Their bones were dry
    - ii. Their hope was gone
    - iii. They felt cut off
- III. God is trying to get Ezekiel to see his powerful presence

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### **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

- IV. It is God's powerful presence that brings resurrection
  - a. What everyone has given up on, God sees potential
- V. Where is your valley of dry bones?

#### **Small Group Questions:**

1. Read the passage above twice. Which words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
2. What thoughts, feelings, or questions did you have as you read this passage or listened to the sermon? What part of the sermon stood out to you most?
3. "Christ did not come to make bad people good, or good people better. Christ came to make dead people come alive." How is this consistent/inconsistent with how you have been taught to understand the gospel?
4. For the people of Israel, they experienced desolation as a result of being conquered by Babylon. Their bones were dry, hope was gone and they felt cut off? Can you recall a time when you felt any of these things? What happened?
5. Rich mentioned that we all long for resurrection, but we want it on our terms. Can you think of a situation in your life that you have tried/are trying to control what "resurrection" looks like?
6. What are some areas in your life where you do not feel the powerful presence of God? Why do you think this is the case?
7. In this story, God sees potential when Ezekiel sees just bones. What areas/people in your life is God inviting you to see greater potential?
8. Ezekiel was given the task of collaborating with God to bring resurrection. How do you think God is inviting you to participate in bringing resurrection to the word around you? What are some practical steps that you can begin to take?
9. Where is the valley of dry bones in your life today?
10. Take time to share requests and pray for one another.