

Dry Bones Resurrected

EZEKIEL 37:1-2

1 “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.

2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.

This Scripture specifically applies to Israelites as an end time prophecy. We see that large portions of it have already taken place. Years before the 12 Tribes of Israel were one nation in the Promised Land. However the Northern Kingdom was defeated by the Assyrians and the Southern Kingdom was taken into Babylon.

Centuries past and a lot of changes took place in Israel and with the Jews worldwide, and finally in 1948 Israel became a legal nation for the first time since 70 AD.

This prophecy in Ezekiel 37 also applies to us.

Is there something “dead” or “dry” in your life? Worse then that. Do you have a promise for your life that now seems “dead? Remember, these bones have been dead so long that they were now dry. The Jewish people had many promises but they had been scattered among many nations, and everything seemed impossible.

Ezekiel 37:1-14,

“1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

*2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; **and indeed they were very dry.***

3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.”

*4 Again He said to me, “**Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!***

*5 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: “**Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.***

*6 “**I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.**”””*

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.

8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

9 *Also He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”””*

10 *So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

11 *Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’*

12 *“Therefore prophecy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O My people, **I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**””*

13 *“Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.*

14 *“I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,” says the LORD.’””*

Impossible? Resurrection is not impossible!

God specializes in resurrection of dead things. Nothing is impossible for God. Can you believe this?

He is the eternal, all sufficient, uncreated, unborn, the living and eternal and self-existent God. Not only that, but His very nature is love.

This is the order - problem – promise – death – resurrection.

God specializes in resurrection. He demonstrated that through Elijah and Elisha, and He had promised it through earlier prophets. And, as we now know, He would demonstrate it centuries later through Jairus’ daughter, Lazarus, many others, and finally Jesus.

There is the ultimate resurrection for believers, as there was for Jesus, which takes us out of our earthly bodies into Heaven with eternal bodies.

However Jesus often works another type of resurrection while still here in our bodies.

Philippians 3:11 (AMPC),

11 That if possible I may attain to the [spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body].

2. Resurrection can only take place where sin is removed. Jesus is

responsible for this.

Lazarus raised from the dead after four days.

John 11:2-45,

“2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

7 Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

15 “And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

21 Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 “But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

26 “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”

32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

34 And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

37 And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

42 “And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.”

Jairus' daughter

Luke 8:41-56.

41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house,

42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him.

43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any,

44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl.

52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping."

53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

54 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise."

55 Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.

56 And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened."

Jesus.

John 20:9-20,

"9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

12 *And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.*

13 *Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”*

14 *Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.*

15 *Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”*

16 *Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).*

17 *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”*

18 *Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.*

19 *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*

20 *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.”*

We need to speak.

To speak to the “dry bones” in our lives is our responsibility.

Ezekiel 37:4-5,

4 *Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’*

5 *‘Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.’*

Where God is concerned, though, “dead” or “dry” doesn’t mean very much. So what if the chosen people were scattered all over ancient civilizations? So what if the situation was so hopeless that all of Isaiah’s promises made years before now seemed wildly unrealistic? So what if the bones had been dead so long that they were now dry? However God needed someone to speak His Word here on earth. Only we can speak His Word here on earth now.

Notice as the story in Ezekiel 37 continues into later chapters, that Israel's enemies were defeated even against "impossible" odds. See details Scripture in endnotes:

Ezekiel 39:4, 5,

*"4 "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; **I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.***

5 "You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD."

If you stand and speak, so will your spiritual enemies be defeated.

We know that God is the worker of miracles and resurrection, but do we stand long enough in our faith to experience it? Do we speak the Word of God? We should see our impossibilities as the primary opportunity that God is on our side and He will do the miracle.

Next time you are facing impossibility go to the story of dry bones and mediate upon it. Remember our God is omnipotent, if He gave life to the dry bones in Ezekiel He will do the same for you.

ⁱ ENDNOTES

God's victory, or resurrection power for the dry bones. God drew Israel's enemies towards the so the He could destroy them!

Ezekiel 38:1-23,

"1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

*3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "**Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.***

*4 "**I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.***

*5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;*

6 “Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops--many people *are* with you.

7 “Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.

8 “After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword *and* gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.

9 “You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”

10 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “On that day it shall come to pass *that* thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

11 “You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’ --

12 “to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places *that are again* inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

13 “Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’”

14 “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know *it*?”

15 “Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.

16 “You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.”

17 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Are *you* he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?”

18 “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord GOD, “*that* My fury will show in My face.

19 “For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel,

20 ‘so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who *are* on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’

21 “I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord GOD. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother.

22 “And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who *are* with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 “Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD.””

Ezekiel 39:1-7

“1 “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal;

2 “and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

3 “Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand.

4 “You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who *are* with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured.

5 “You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord GOD.

6 “And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD.”

“7 “So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not *let them* profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.”

Ezekiel 39:10-12

“10 “They will not take wood from the field nor cut down *any* from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord GOD.

11 “It will come to pass in that day *that* I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call *it* the Valley of Hamon Gog.

12 “For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.”