An Exceedingly Great Army

When the Wind Blows
Ezekiel 37:10



When the Wind Blows: Ezekiel 37

- Bones scattered (Week 1 hopelessness).
- Word spoken (Week 2 structure by prophecy).
- Bones connected (Week 3 unity).
- Breath entered (Week 4 Spirit fills)
- They Stood on their feet (Week 5 An Exceedingly Great Army)

Point 1: From Corpses to Conquerors

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- We have now arrived at the purpose
- God raises not just individuals, but an army for His mission.

Ezekiel 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Point 1: From Corpses to Conquerors

- Nobody lives life to the fullest more than someone who has experienced death.
- ...They lived and stood on their feet... (Ezekiel 37:10)
 - They were in a position of readiness
- That purpose was for them to become an exceedingly great army

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

When God raises you, He doesn't raise you to sit. He raises you to stand.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just bring you back to life. He brings you into position.

Point 2:

• When the Spirit fills its unto witness, power, and mission.

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

• In the valley:

• When the spirit of God breathed upon the bones, they stood to their feet and became an exceedingly great army who was positioned for readiness and resurrected for a purpose.

In the Upper Room:

- When the Holy Spirit came upon them God said, "You will be my witnesses..." They
 were empowered for a purpose.
- Pentecost created the first army of witnesses
- They marched into Jerusalem alive, empowered, and unified preaching the Gospel.

- The Church is Body of Christ:
 - The church became mobilized for the mission of spreading the Gospel to every living creature.
 - The breath that filled you is the same breath that sends you.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples...

- God didn't raise you to sit!
 - He raised you to stand
- God didn't raise you be a spectator
 - He raised you to be a soldier in the army of the Lord.

- There are people struggling right now.
- Dry, scattered, and hopeless.
- They are overcome by the very thing that you've overcame!
 - O God brought you victory that you may bring hope to someone else

"I don't want God to waste a miracle on me"

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Point 3:

Point 3: An Exceedingly Great Army

• God's vision is bigger than survival; its revival and expansion.

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock[a] I will build my church, and the gates of hell[b] shall not prevail against it.

Joel 2:11 The Lord utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes (carries out) his word is powerful. For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

- What starts as a valley of dry bones, ends as a victorious army!
- Your beginnings may look like bones, but your destiny is an army.

- You are not just a congregation, You are a spiritual army raised for this generation.
- An Army has Soldiers
 - Soldiers are trained
 - They spend months of strengthening and conditioning
 - They are taught how to deny desires their flesh; Like food, sleep, water, and comfort
 - These lessons are hard but necessary
 - This is difficult sometimes: The soldiers know the magnitude of the mission

- You are not just a congregation, You are a spiritual army raised for this generation.
- At New Hope; We are a Spiritual Army:
 - Soldiers are Trained through discipleship
 - Corporate Worship services
 - Weekly prayer meetings
 - Wednesday night Bible study
 - Small groups
 - It's difficult sometimes: The soldiers know the magnitude of the mission
- 2 Timothy 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Armies Advance

• We don't stay in the valley- we march into the harvest fields.

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

Armies Supply Themselves for Battle

- Our sanctuary project is our forward operating base for revival.
- This house is the place where we assemble to be fed and replenish so we can always be an army well supplied for every battle.

- An Army Divided cannot fight
 - A divided army will never defeat their enemy if they are fighting themselves.
 - We must lock our shields together.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy[a] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

- Christianity of not a passive religion, but a mobilized movement.
- The resurrection of Israel in Ezekiel 37 is a foreshadowing of both the Church's mission and Israel future restoration.
- 2000 years later, the church still stands as an exceedingly great army because **the Holy Spirit sustains His army.**
- Scattered, they were powerless, But when they were brought together, they stood on their feet as an exceedingly great army.
- If you will be a soldier now...

Revelation 19:11-14

- 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.
- 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.
- 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in [b] blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.
- 14 And the <u>armies</u> of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.