

Hope in the Valley

A close-up photograph of a lit oil lamp. The flame is bright yellow and orange, with a blue base. The lamp is dark, and the background is black, making the light stand out.

Ezekiel 37:1-14



Ezekiel 37:

1 ¶ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. 3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' 5 "Thus says



Ezekiel 37:

the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. ⁶ 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'" ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there



Ezekiel 37:

was no breath in them. 9 Then 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 come to life.'"" 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our



Ezekiel 37:

hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' ¹² "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ "Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. ¹⁴ "I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.'"

THE SCENE

- Brought by the Hand of the Lord, the Spirit...
- Dry & Desolate – un-buried bones...
- Hopelessness all around him
- Ezekiel is made to walk among them
- As a holy man/prophet – unclean!
- God brings us to hard places, dead people...

BLEACHED AND DRY

- Circumstances can feel like this!
- Can all this change? Can these bones live?
- LORD YOU KNOW! A good answer...
- Prophecy over these bones – *shamah*
- **“I will...”**
- You will know I am the Lord

PREACHING TO BONES

- GOD asks us to do strange things...
 - Jonah, Hosea, Esther, Peter Acts 10
 - Take up your cross and follow Me...
 - It might seem bad at the moment...
 - God is HOPE – He offers the answer
 - His word declares...

BREATH!

- Not organs, blood, muscles, skin...
- ***ruach*** – wind, Spirit, breath
- He got results – bones came together!

NOISE

- Natural functions and connections – no breath!
- Prophecy to the wind - *ruach* again
- From everywhere – “4 winds”

THE ARMY OF GOD

- Winds, breath, spirit = LIFE!
 - Breath came into them, lived, stood up
- Their view:
 - Dried bones, perished hope, cut off from God
 - I WILL – open graves. Make you come out!
 - Bring you back to the land

YOU WILL KNOW

- Something more than circumstance change?
- YES! MY SPIRIT within you
 - You will come to life
 - Place you on your own land
 - You will know I am the LORD
 - I have spoken and done it

COME *RAUCH*

- Had enough of dead, dry, hopeless, despair?
- Putting “your bones” together is not enough
- Structure is fine, but we need breath!
- Breath made the creation, Adam, the
CHURCH



His Word Wind

2Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



His Wind

John 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"