

MY HELPER #17
THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

Eze. 37 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 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 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “**Prophecy** 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 (spirit KJV) 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 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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.’” 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 whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophecy 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. 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.’” NIV

Intro.

God brings the Prophet to a most unusual place; "A Valley full of Dry Bones".

Bones are story tellers. The coroner, the archaeologist and anthropologist use the state of bones to tell the **time of death**, the **diet of a culture**, the **manner of death**, and the **length of death**. The bones in our text are indicators of spiritual dehydration, idolatrous diet, doctrinal chaos, and Divine abandonment resulting from sin and disobedience. The bones also tell the Preacher, that sometimes he must preach in the most hopeless situations. The request by God to preach to a valley full of dry bones are a great test of the Prophets' faith.

The text teaches us several things:

I. The Desperate Condition in Which Sin Can Reduce Us.

BONES indicate...

- A. SPIRITLESS- (bones every where)-no life, death
- B. A PAST
- C. NO IDENTITY- don't know who they are
- D. OPEN FOR VIEWING- v 2 ... a great many bones on the floor of the valley.

II. Faith is Possible in the Most Hopeless Situations.

³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

- A. It was a hopeless situation- dead bones live?
- B. Faith is present because the "Sovereign Lord" is asking

the question.

Jer. 32 ¹⁷ “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

²⁷ “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?”

III. The Proclaimed PROPHECY.

Eze. 37 4-6

Ezekiel is told to “prophesy to these bones”. You may have to declare God’s word over that something that is “dead”.

That thing that has been considered lost.

That **relationship** that has been killed.

That **body part** that is not functioning, dead!

That **financial deal** that you consider dead.

That **emotion and passion you once had** that is dead.

Don’t minimize the power of the proclamation of the Word of God! Ezekiel proclaims exactly **what the Lord said**, “I will....

A. I will put life in you.

⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath (spirit KJV) enter you, and **you will come to life.**

B. I will give you strength

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.’”

IV. Organization is Impotent Without the SPIRIT’S Impartation.

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.

A. Prophecy minus God's permission produces **chaos**.

B. Prophecy given by God produces **action**.

V 7 “ ...as I was prophesying”

1. Noise, a rattling sound

2. Order and Unity- The bones come together

C. The body is formed but there is no life.

⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

2 Tim. 3⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.

It is possible to have the appearance of something powerful and good, yet be lifeless and dead. Organization and order is nothing without life.

It is an “Adam” without the breath of God. Only when God breathed into Adam did he become “a living soul”.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees who appeared to be leaders of religion with **Matt. 23²⁷** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. NIV

V. Revival is a Quickening Work of the HOLY SPIRIT.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath(wind KJV); prophecy, 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.’”¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life

A. What the church or people needed was breath.

He has been told to prophesy to the bones, now he is told to prophesy to the wind. They had form but not life.

B. He prophesies to the 4 winds.

He is calling upon all the life of the Spirit. The number 4 in scripture speaks of “entirety”.

C. Only the Holy Spirit gives life.

Rev. 11 11 Declares that he is the Spirit of Life.

When we are born again (revived, live again) we are born of the Spirit. John 3: 3-8

Rom. 8¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

VI. The Holy Spirit Can Raise an Army From a Graveyard.

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.

He can take a church, a life, a marriage that has been dead, resurrect it and use it for his glory.

If we want revival let’s petition the Holy Spirit the “breathe” in this body of believer’s and see what he will do!