

PROPHECY AN ARMY INTO EXISTENCE

Ezek 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

Ezek 37:2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

The first thing we ought to notice about Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones is the fact that these bones were not buried, thankfully. They were dead and dry, but not buried. "And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border" (Jer 31:17). The believer does not go to the funeral of a soul – we go in the hope of resurrecting the soul in Jesus' name! In his entire ministry, the Lord Jesus never attended funerals so the "souls could rest in peace"; he came to the tomb of Lazarus to raise him back from the dead. Every death that Jesus encountered, the soul was ordered back to the land of the living. No wonder he declared, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). We serve the God who goes to funerals and graveyards to raise the dead – let us be armed with this faith and understanding and go to meet the dead souls around us.

Secondly, note the bones could not come to Ezekiel, he had to go to this valley. Actually, it was the Spirit of the Lord who carried him to this valley. May the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ carry us to dead souls! It is often the case, if we are honest, that we prefer to decide where to go and take the witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was to the same Ezekiel that the Lord gave the following warning, "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 33:8). In other words, God often takes us to places that we would not go on our own; but go we must. The truth of the matter is that unless we genuinely feel a burden for the lost, dying and dead, we cannot muster the will or strength to go to the valley of dead bones. The rain of revival can never fall if there has been no rain of tears from our eyes. This is the real drought – the drought of tears among the people of God. Let us earnestly pray: Lord let the clouds of tears burst from our hearts and eyes first!

Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Revival follows the plough, said one preacher. Land that is unbroken and fallow, never produces anything. May the Lord Jesus break us first! “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12). It was the tears of Mary that made Jesus appear before her tear-stained face. “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away” (John 20:15). Only the tear-stained face will see souls resurrected, just as Mary’s tears brought the resurrected Lord to her.

There is no revival of the dead without prayer, though! Just as commercial jets are powered by petrol, revival is powered by prayer! Why are prayer meetings in churches so poorly attended, I have asked myself often? Sunday meetings and conferences always have more people than whole night prayer meetings. I say this not to shame anyone, but souls will not come cheap into the church. Fire did not fall from heaven in the days of Elijah until the prophet first built an altar. “And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down” (I Kings 18:30). What was the price the Lord Jesus had to pay for souls to be saved? Isaiah has the answer:

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Next, we see that Ezekiel was commanded by God to prophesy to the dead bones. When we witness, we must focus, not on the dead souls before us, but the power of the Word of God. “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth” (Psalm 33:6). Realize that in speaking the Word of God to souls, God extends to us the power of recreation and revival. Hallelujah! Not once, but twice God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy to the dead bones. “And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them” (Ezekiel 37:8). I am afraid some of our churches have souls that only have flesh and skin, but there is no spiritual life in them. They are not filled with the Holy Spirit. We must not stop prophesying unto them – let us keep persisting in witnessing and prophesying to them in Jesus’ saving name until they be filled with the breath of Jesus. The first time Ezekiel spoke to the bones, but the second time he spoke to the Spirit of the Lord.

***Ezek 37:9** Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.*

In saving souls, we must speak to the dead souls and to the living Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fourth century theologian, Augustine, once said that he wants to be found speaking to God for souls or speaking to souls for God when the Lord returns. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26). After prophesying the second time, Ezekiel saw each bone come back to life. Every bone must hear the Word of God; every bone must receive the breath of the Lord. Salvation is always individual. Sometimes individuals think that their ministry is dead – that God no longer uses them for his glory. Think again! “And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds” (Numbers 17:8). If the good Lord revives dead bones, will he not revive our ministries? Never leave your ministry in the valley of dead bones!

Finally, Ezekiel realized that the bones were an army. He had no idea this was the case to begin with. We don’t know what they were to begin, but now they were the army of the Lord. Let me remind you that the children of Israel were miserable slaves for 430 years; the only fighting they ever did was for Pharaoh. Now, however, at Rephidim, after they drank water from the Rock that represented Jesus, they became the army of the Lord and fought Amalek. The first battle they ever fought was against Amalek after they drank of the Rock representing the Holy Ghost of the Lord Jesus.

***Exodus 17:6** Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

***Exodus 17:8** Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

***Exodus 17:13** And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.*

***1Cor 10:4** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

I pray the Lord make everyone of us an Ezekiel who prophesizes an army into existence to fight the battles of the Lord Jesus! Remember all things are possible by faith in

Jesus name! “Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23). Are you ready to prophesy an army into existence for Jesus?