

## Bones into Armies

### Introduction

Ezekiel 37:1-4

God takes us to the valley to open our eyes

\* The valley represents lifeless places

↳ God led him to show him the true state of things

\* Spiritual dryness must be acknowledged before healing

↳ Before change can occur, we must be honest about our condition

\* God often begins restoration in hidden or broken places

↳ David's mighty men began as broken men in the cave of Adullam, restoration often starts in the low places!

\* The valley experience prepares us for Divine instruction

↳ God speaks clearly in the valley. Our attention is sharpened.

God speaks life into dead situations

\* The power that is in prophecy is released when we speak God's word

↳ God instructed Ezekiel to prophesy - restoration begins when we declare God's truth.

\* The word of God brings clarity & order to confusion

↳ Even in the valley, the entrance of God's word brings light!

\* The spoken word can transform dry places into living ones

↳ God's word always brings results, it never returns void!

\* Our mouths are weapons, speak life, not death

↳ When we declare in the valley can shape our outcome!

## Bones into Armies Introduction

Ezekiel 37:1-14

- This prophetic vision is a vision of Israel, the bones are not only dry - they were very dry
- Symbolising a situation that had been dead for a long time
- This vision is also more than a metaphor for Israel, but I want to use it in how it speaks to our lives today.
- God brought the prophet Ezekiel to this valley in the vision to show him a powerful image/vision of restoration, resurrection and divine transformation.

↳ Many people are walking through, or sometimes find themselves in their own "valley of dry bones"

↳ Places of discouragement, lost opportunities, broken relationships, failed dreams and spiritual barrenness.

↳ Even the church can in some way relate to this vision

\* Sometimes God allows us to witness desolate conditions (cold like the deserts) - not to break us, but to awaken us!

## Bones into Armies

Ezekiel 37:1-14

## The Breath of Life brings Transformation

\* Structure is not enough, we need the Breath of Life, the Holy Spirit

Ezekiel 37: 8-9

↳ The bones come together, but they remained lifeless  
↳ Until the Breath of Life, the Spirit entered them.

\* The Breath of Life breathes new life into dead things

Romans 8:11

↳ What is impossible to man, is possible through the Spirit!

\* The more of the Breath of Life/the Spirit brings revival

Acts 2:1-4

↳ On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit turned men into bold on fire disciples

\* Transformation is incomplete without the Breath of Life

Job 33:4

↳ We were formed & created by God, but life is sustained by His Breath, the Spirit of God.

\* Don't be a disciple without the Breath of Life, without the Holy Spirit!!

Acts 19:1-8

↳ A disciple is a disciplined follower, here we see that you can do this without the Holy Spirit

↳ Without the Breath of Life, the Spirit that transforms, the Spirit sustains, we can become structured dead disciples

Colossians 5:16

↳ But when we walk & live by the Spirit of God, the Breath of the Almighty will empower, guide, transform & change us into the image & likeness of Christ

↳ Empowering us to become bold on fire disciples of Jesus Christ

## Bones into Armies God restores purpose

- The concept of restoration is a recurring theme throughout scripture

- Reflecting God's desire to renew & redeem His creation

- Restoration involves the act of returning something to its original state or intended purpose

- The sinews in this scripture points to the restoration

- work of God, without this the bones cannot be reconnected

- without the sinews being restored the dead bones will

remain dead

- without the restoration work of God, dead things remain dead

\* The Lord not only want to free & restore us but want to

Luke 4:18-19

remake us / make us completely new

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

\* It's His work of rebirth

but also a continual work in us

\* God's work of refreshing

Acts 3:19-21

Psalms 23:1-3

\* God's work of Rest

Matthew 11:28

\* God's work of renewing strength

Isaiah 40:31

\* God doesn't just revive you - He repurposes you

Ezekiel 37:10

\* from scattered bones to a great army, God restores not just life but purpose & mission

1 Peter 2:9

\* You are not called to remain broken/dead but to rise strong

\* You are chosen for a purpose

\* Revived is not for display but for deployment

Matthew 28:19

\* God revives us so that we can go out and make disciples

## Bones into Armies God restores Identity

Ezekiel 37: 6

- In this scripture I want to use the skin as a metaphor for our identity

- When God restores us, He changes/restores our identity as we become who He intended, to fulfill our purpose.

- The restoration of identity to the rebellious & wayward son in the story of the prodigal son is perhaps the greatest example of God's heart to restore you & me as His children.

- Here the son returns hoping solely to be allowed to serve his

Father as a slave. **Luke 15: 11-24**

\* But the Father ran out to meet him & immediately brought restoration to his identity as a good & pleasing son in His eyes.

## God restores our Identity, how?

① Repent → repent means to turn from or change thoughts on.

↳ quit partnering with false identities

↳ quit listening to the devil & those around you - all negative voices.

② Redefine → redefine who you are

↳ Read the Bible & find out who God says you are!!

↳ Ask God to help you see yourself the way He sees you

③ Renounce → do the work, forget the false identities

↳ change things like the people you hang out with, things you listen to

④ Expel → break the chains of darkness, through deliverance

brought about by prayer

⑤ Resist → resist the devil & he will flee

↳ Commit to believe the truth about who you are and

not accepting any false identity!!

James 4: 7

Ezekiel 37:4-11

Bones into Armies  
Prophecy son of man

- Prophecy in the Bible is when a divine message from God are delivered through a human messenger (a prophet)  
- But there is also prophecy that is for every child of God.

- There is the office of the prophet (Eph 4:11) and there is prophecy for educator & exhortation of the church (1 Corinthians 14:1-5)

- Paul says he wish all would prophesy  
- We can and should learn how to prophesy, in other words we should learn to speak & prophesy God's word - Not just over other people, but also over our own circumstances

\* We should learn to release/speak/prophesy God's word over our lives/family/brothers & sisters in Christ.

• Here we see that nothing happened until Ezekiel was obedient to the word/commandment of God  
• Yes God can do it all Himself, but He more often than not does it through man

• When Ezekiel started to prophesy the bones started to rattle

• Then it also prophesied to the Birth of Life and new life came, restoration came, new purpose came

↳ We should live by faith, but we should also speak by faith.

↳ Releasing/speaking the word of God by faith = Prophecy

\* Fill your spirit with the word of God & start prophesying it over your life

## Bones into Armies The Breath of Life

Ezekiel 37:9-14

- When we come to God, He will restore us, He will restore our purpose, He will restore our identity.

- But for us to come alive, and all this to happen, we need the Breath of Life, God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit!!

- Without the Breath of Life, we would be dead, not just physically but will remain spiritually dead.

- So you might find yourself in the valley, broken, hurt, alone etc. If we allow God to change us, the same that happened in this vision with the house of Israel, will happen to us!!

- God could have brought life to the dry bones completely on His own, yet He invited Ezekiel to join in His work.

- And He invites us to partner with Him too on this.

\* He prompts us to speak life into dead situations

\* Turns into the face of deception

\* Hope into seeming impossibilities

• But we need the Breath of Life to be alive physically

Genesis 2:7

• And we need the Breath of Life, the Holy Spirit to be alive Spiritually

John 20:22

• Every form of life is sustained by God's Spirit, the Breath of Life, the Holy Spirit

Job 34:14-15

The Breath of Life (pneuma), the Holy Spirit is seen as God's active, personal presence, holding creation together and empowering it moment by moment, making everything that exists possible!!