

## **Ezekiel 37, 1-14 The God of the impossible**

There's an eerie quiet in our streets, yet the sun is still shining, the birds are still singing. We have all learned a new word, Coronavirus. The common cold is a strain of this virus. It and the flu have been preying on the sick and old for many years. Covid19 is a new strain of the virus, dangerous because we have never 'seen it before, we have no natural immunity. It has caused a pandemic that has all-but grounded mankind. So here we are, hiding in our houses, hiding from a bug which devastating our planet.

I am not sure when, but God willing, I know there will come a time when we sit together and reminisce: "what about that coronavirus, eh?", and thank God we came through. But for now, what is it giving us? TIME. Time for prayer, time to think, time to assess. Time to read through the bible, cover to cover! (Takes about 70 hours nonstop if you were wondering.....).

I avoided the temptation to go to Ecclesiastes 3 (a time to....), and stuck with what I planned to say just over a month ago, when corona was still a lager:

### **Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (read aloud...it's always good to hear Gods word)**

The hand of the LORD was on 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. 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. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 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.'"

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

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, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 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. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 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.’”

‘Dem bones, dem bones’, a very well-known passage. By now, the prophet Ezekiel had lived through the fall of Jerusalem, when he probably lost his wife. He had been taken captive into Babylon, south of Baghdad, in present day Iraq.

The passage speaks of God’s plan for the salvation of the Israelites, ‘the dry bones will live’. But like all scriptures it works at so many more levels. We all are ‘Ezekiels’, prophets in a dry and barren land called to speak God’s word.

Just a few thoughts, remember **you** are the ‘me’ the passage we are talking about:

Divine leading and empowering: *The hand of the LORD was on 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.*

Divine fellowship: *He led me back and forth among them*

Divine insight: *He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”*

Divine commission: *“Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’*

First and foremost, God has put us where we are to be His voice, to bring the Word of the Lord to the lost. ‘The fields are vast, the bones are many and very dry’.

Secondly it speaks to us, and the myriad problems we have battled, some are very dry bones we have borne for many, many years. Difficulties beyond number, situations beyond hope, a valley of depression that surrounds. *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

God asks us: *“Son of man, can these bones live?”* Is your situation beyond my ability, something I do not care about? Ezekiel could well have looked at the ‘dry bones’ in his life and said “Lord it is hopeless, they are just too dry” Instead he replied:

*“Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”*

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees, and looks to God alone;  
Laughs at impossibilities, And cries it shall be done. (Charles Wesley)

“Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!  
*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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.*”

Hebrews 4:12 tells us ‘For the word of God is alive and active’.

*So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

We carry many dry bones, problems that seem impossible. We know many people who are ‘dry bones’, devoid of life eternal that only God can give. There are many who walk this earth and yet are dead, the breath of God is not in them.

In the day of the internet, we are always looking for an instant answer. God does not work like that. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. And unfortunately, With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

Jeremiah 29:12-13 tells us; "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

1 John 5:15 - "And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

Ezekiel again reminds us: God led us to the valley we are in. He gives His Spirit to guide and empower. However dry, however hopeless we may feel, he calls us simply to speak and His Spirit will breath into our situation.

Above all, never forget our loving God is in charge.

Let us say together the Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

**Amen.**