

Hope for the Hopeless. Ezekiel 37:1-14

Hope

Hope where there is no hope

Dry bones vv. 1-10

Ezekiel 37: The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

Deuteronomy 28:²⁵ "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.

Ezekiel 37:³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

*Deut 32:³⁹ "See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. [1 Samuel 2:6]*

Genesis 18:¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Jeremiah 32:²⁶ The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:²⁷ "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"

Ezekiel 37:⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath [ruach] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath [ruach] in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 37: ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath [ruach] in them.

Ezekiel 37: ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath [ruach]; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath [ruach], Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds [ruach], O breath [ruach], and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath [ruach] came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Ezekiel 36:27 – "And I will put my Spirit within you..."

Ezekiel 37:14 "And I will put my Spirit within you and you shall live ..

Genesis 2:7

A shattered people vv. 11-14

Ezekiel 37: 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 hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'

Ezekiel 37: ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

A sure hope – the risen one who can raise the dead [Gal. 3:13; Gal. 3:27-29, 6:16; Eph. 1:13-14]

John 11: ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

1 Corinthians 15: ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

2 Cor. 5: ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Dying with hope

Living with hope

In weakness

2 Cor. 12:9-10 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

When struggling with sin [Romans 6:6, Col. 2:12; Romans 8:10-15; Galatians 5:22-23]

When making disciples [Eph. 2:1-3, John 5:24-25]

Hope in God