

Ezekiel 37

Ezekiel was taken into captivity, along with many other Jews. There he became a prophet of God.

One day the Lord took him to the middle of a valley full of bones. The bones were so dry they would turn to powder if touched. As Ezekiel walked in the valley, God spoke to him.

“Son of Man, can these bones live?”

“O Lord, God, only you know.”

Then the Lord said, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay muscle upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and will cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and then you shall know that I am the Lord.’”

So, Ezekiel stood in the midst of the bones and prophesied as he had been told. Suddenly, he heard a rattling across the valley. The bones were reconnecting bone to bone. Soon the valley was filled with skeletons. And as the prophet watched, muscles and tendons came upon them, and flesh came upon them, and skin covered them, and yet there was no breath in them.

Then the Lord God said, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy Son of Man, and say: Thus, says the Lord God, come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain in the valley that they might live.”

And so, Ezekiel prophesied as he had been commanded. And the breath came into the bodies, and they lived. They stood on their feet, a vast multitude, a vast army.

Then the Lord God said, “Son of Man, these bones represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Right now, the tribes are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up; our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’”

Therefore, prophesy and say to them, “Thus, says the Lord God; the day is coming that

- I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves.
- My people, I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves.
- My people, I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.
- I will place you on your own soil.
- And then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act.

Sometime later God said to Ezekiel, “Son of man, take a stick and write on it, Judah: and then take another stick and write on it Joseph. Then join these into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. And when your people ask, ‘What do you mean by these?’ say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph and I will join with it the stick of Judah, and I will make them one, that they may be one in my hand.

- Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.
- And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.
- And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.
- They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions.
- But I will save them from all the backslidings into which they have fallen.
- I will cleanse them.
- And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.