



A vision of hope in a valley of despair

Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NIV) *¹The hand of the LORD was upon 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. ²He 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. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."*

1. Ezekiel was born around 623 BC.
2. He was 25 when Babylon invaded Israel and destroyed the Temple and took possession of Jerusalem.
3. He was a contemporary with Jeremiah and Daniel.
4. He began to serve as a priest 5 years later.
5. God used him to speak to the people of Israel about restoration and revival.

I. Israel was brought into captivity because of disobedience Ezk 36:16-38

Deuteronomy 28:20 (NIV) *The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to,*

until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.

1. The Israelites had committed idolatry and murder. v.18
2. The Israelites had caused God's name to be mocked.
V.20
3. They were being punished for their sins.
4. Even though they were in captivity, they enjoyed life in Babylon and were not eager to return to the Promised land.
5. They would be rescued because of God's nature. V. 22

II. God promises to renew them Ezk 36:23-37

1. This will be done because of the holiness of God. V. 23
2. God will cleanse them. V.25
3. God will put a new spirit in them. V. 26
4. God will give them a new heart. V. 26
5. God will put His Spirit in them. V. 27
6. God will return them to their land. V. 28
7. He will restore relationship with them. V. 28
8. He will prosper them. V. 29, 30
9. They will despise their past sins. V.31

III. God gives a visual illustration of what He will do Ezk 37:1-14

1. God shows a valley full of bones to Ezekiel. V. 1

2. The bones were disconnected. V. 2
3. The bones were completely dried out. V.2
3. God asks Ezekiel, “can these bones live?” v. 3
4. God tells Ezekiel to speak to the bones and command them to hear the Word of the Lord. V. 4
5. The bones begin to rattle, come together, receive muscles and skin. V. 7, 8
6. The breath of God brings life. V. 10
7. This is a picture of Israel who has said, *'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'* v. 11

IV. God is doing this so that all will know He is the Lord

1. Revival is initiated by God.
2. God will open the graves of exile and call people to life.
3. God desires to put His Spirit in you.
4. God wants you to experience hope, vitality, purpose, and victory in life.