

## The Breath of Freedom and Life

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Have you ever felt like you were in bondage? This past Friday we celebrated 249 years of freedom from British oppression, taxation without representation. We are free to worship, free to drink coffee, and not tea! Ezekiel had seen the fall of Israel to Babylon. The Babylonian people were wicked and idolatrous. They had taken Israel into captivity. As we see from Daniel, the Babylonians cared nothing for the promises of God; the Abrahamic covenant, the Davidic covenant, the Messianic covenant. Israel was the hinge of God's promises to His people. To Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah's people that they were prophesying to, everything seemed to be lost. Those who had for generations felt the blessing of Yahweh were now taken into slavery. Don't you believe they were asking, "What are you doing God"? This was the question that many faithful believers were faced with. Ezekiel had been called to be a voice of God to the people. How discouraging is it when you feel that God has turned His back on you and your people, but what we see is a message of freedom in God through Ezekiel's prophecy. Let's examine this today and be encouraged for the rest of our lives!

**I. The Appearance of Doom and Gloom (Ezekiel 37:1-3)** Sometimes God will put you into what seems to be death and destruction to show you His glory! God is allowing Ezekiel to see that the nation of Israel is dead! The only way that the nation can be revived is if God does it! How do you see your community? Does it seem like there is no hope? God is the giver of life through Christ! According to Ephesians 2:1-4 we were all dead before Christ saved us. ***"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us."*** There may be the appearance of doom and gloom in order for our hearts to hurt the same way God's heart hurts for us! We see in Daniel 3:1, this valley was possibly the valley of Dura, and these would be the bones of those who did not worship King Nebuchadnezzar.

**II. The Ability to Declare Freedom and Life in Christ (Ezekiel 37:4-6)** God is asking us to speak to the most unlikely people, at the most unlikely places! Isaiah 55:11 tells us that when God speaks, His word is always effective and accomplishes what He intends it to do. You, Christian are a life, freedom-bringing bondage-breaker! Ezekiel is already puzzled, but he is obedient. We may be the same way! What message of life and freedom do we need to declare today? How about 1 John 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." If you do not feel freedom from sin, do you have Christ? We need to be asking everyone, we need to be giving everyone the message that bring freedom in Christ! Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

### **III. The Absolute Demonstration of Freedom and Life (Ezekiel 37:7-14)**

- Only God can bring to life that which is dead. V.10 Listen to Gen 2:7 “then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” God gave Adam life through His breath!
- Listen to how similar Rev 11:11 sounds: “But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.” This is referring to the two witnesses in Revelation will be given life, a demonstration of life by God that will cause all to be amazed! We see the word pneuma here, it’s the Greek form of the Hebrew word we see in Ezekiel referring to God’s breath. We get the word pneumatics, pressurized air or gas. Aren’t we amazed when the town drunk gets radically saved? Only God can do the work of God! Only God can breathe life, only He can breathe freedom!

In our American pursuit for our best life now, we have assaulted God’s Sovereign pleasure of spiritual awakening and replaced it with boot strap theology. I can pull myself up, thank you. That’s a works based non- biblical man-centered heresy!

- God shows the hope of redemption V. 14

We can see through the cloud of pure discouragement and despair, a redeemer, an all-powerful God who is the only one who can breathe life into mankind, both spiritually and physically! Can God turn dead people into alive beings that pump for the glory of God? Listen to John 20:22-23 “and when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Are you free from sin? Only Christ can free you! Give your life to Him today, allow Him to give you the breath of life and freedom!