**Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. 2Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. 3And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” 4Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord.” ’ ” 7So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them. 9Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ’ 10So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. 11Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ 12Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken *it* and performed *it,*” says the Lord.’**

This is one of the most interesting scriptures. It is chock full of symbolism that applies to the church in the world and in America today. Dry bones, dead souls. Dead bodies. The church is the body of Christ, but where is the life? Is there spirit in that body? Is it all about receiving or is the church giving? The music is loud, the words are right, but is the spirit of the Living God moving in the churches of America? Do we put self first and God last, consuming first and giving last, comfort first and Christ last? If we were called upon to meet for Revival in the middle of a dry scorching field, how many would be there? Oh God, revive us! We have sinned! Dry bones, dead souls – So many churches full of bodies, but empty of Spirit.

We’re not going verse by verse today, but I encourage everyone to pray over this scripture. Ezekiel, taken up by the spirit, finds himself overlooking a valley of bones – dead and very dry. They’d been dead a long time! And God asks – can they live?

*Verses 4-7 Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord 7So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.* God says, Speak my word to the dry bones and dead souls, don’t get caught up in how long they’ve been dead or how dry their bones are. Speak my truth and watch them come alive! And that is exactly what God is saying to Christians today! Speak My Truth and watch the church come alive.

Ezekiel prophecies and watch what happens. Dry bones come together. Bones long dead, now moving! A great noise, much rattling! Verse 8 *Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.* No breath. The body looked alive, but there was no soul! There are church bodies all over the world like this right now. Don’t let this be lost on us – the body looked good, looked healthy, looked alive, but there was no breath! Churches can look alive, moving, moving, but be dead inside. A Christian can look alive but be dead inside. I’d rather have 50 alive inside, than 5000 looking good and dead. There was no breath in them – we are either alive or dead. Revive literally means – restore life, restore consciousness again. Sounds like that valley is on it’s way to revival. Maybe our nation is too… starting in Frogsboro, NC.

  *Verses 9-10 Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.* Notice Ezekiel’s obedience. God instructed, Ezekiel spoke. No revival will ever take place until the word of God is spoken and His Word repeated faithfully to those who will hear. Not the words that scratch the ears or please the mind, but Truth that offends, convicts, and changes the soul. Christ is the Word of God, if we will not receive Him in full measure, we cannot receive Him at all. He only comes in undiluted measure.

Notice the words – great army. There is meaning there. Were the bones revived to stand in the valley and eat? No. It is an army – a force! Armies conquer! Armies take action. And so we are to take action and can’t help but conquer! No longer an empty body, but a spirit filled being, made to spread God’s love to anyone who will receive.

*Verse 14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.’* Only God can bring life forth from empty tombs. Only God can revive long dead bodies. Only God can breathe life on armies and cause us to live. We’re not just called to live in the presence of God in the afterlife! We’re called to live in His presence in this life. We’re called to be a warrior for Him – breastplates of righteousness, carrying the gospel on shoes of preparation, helmet of salvation, shield of faith, armed with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Sounds an awful lot like a soldier, part of a great army, prophesying words breathed by the Living God. How are we doing? How are we doing? Are we on our knees praying to be revived? Will the altar be full of new believers and repentant souls? Will we see God move or bones continue to lay there? We wait expectantly for God to lead, while we stand ready to follow.

As we enjoy revival this week, we must be revived individually. A great army is made up of committed soldiers. Combined commitment brings great victory. This is not about whether the message met our approval or the music pleased our ears. True revival is about spirit revival, renewal of our walk with God, recommitment to the cause of Christ. If all we do is walk away knowing that Brad Wesley is a good preacher, then perhaps we are a body devoid of breath. This week, let’s each make a commitment to open our hearts and beg God to speak revival and perform revival, beginning in our own heart, then in the church, and in His time this nation and the world.