***Ezekiel 37:9-10 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.” 10So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.***

We’re back this week in the valley of dry bones with Ezekiel. Last week, God commanded that Ezekiel prophesy, or speak over, the bones and there was a great rattling and noise. The bones came together, bone to bone, perfectly. There was restoration in the valley. Now, we need to be reminded that this valley represented the nation of Israel – the people of Israel had been taken into captivity first to Assyria and then to Babylon, with many of the Jewish people fleeing to other countries. The nation was dispersed. God is calling on Ezekiel to prophesy for the restoration of Israel.

God calls to all the world today through Jesus. He seeks all nations, whosoever will receive Jesus, calling on His name and believing in Him as the Son of God. He calls to His church to be His hands and feet. He calls to His church to be a great army rising up. Though we love the mountain top high, with its ease and comfort, we know that the need is in the valley where the word of God, spoken to a weary world, can restore, renew, and revitalize. Are we willing to serve in the valley?

As we ended last week, Ezekiel obediently prophesied, bone joined to bone, sinew, flesh, and skin came upon them, but verse 8 ends with these words that bring a great sadness to the heart of the believer – *but, there was no breath in them.* Now God speaks again in verse 9 and is fulfilling the promise He made in verse 5 – *surely, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.* Don’t let it be lost on us that in verse 4, Ezekiel is prophesying to the bones and in verse 9 he is prophesying to the breath. Situation versus Spirit. Verse 9 starts - *Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath.* There are now bodies in the valley, but they are not standing and they are not breathing. They are dead. So often, we pray for the situation, but not for the Spirit in the situation. We pray for the physical to change, but not the spiritual. We pray for the world to change, but we never seek the eternal. We pray the situation but not the Spirit. We must always pray the Spirit… because that is the only Source of permanent change. If God does not change the Spirit, the situation will return. If Ezekiel had stopped with the body, the dry bones situation would have returned. I can think of so many times that I have prayed the situation but not the Spirit and, before I knew it, the bones were dry again.

Verse 9 finishes - *Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”* God is the Authority and the Source. Thus says the Lord God! Ezekiel is the vessel by which the command of God goes out. The breath responds to the vessel because of the King the vessel serves. Likewise, when we call on the Spirit to envelope a situation, the Spirit responds because of the Christ we serve. *Come from the four winds.* Come from all directions and bring the mighty power of God. This life is coming from wherever the Jews are scattered. This should bring us great comfort that, no matter where our loved one or the target of our prayers has roamed, they cannot hide from the King we serve.In Psalm 139:7 King David says, “*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence?*” When we pray the Spirit, there is no hiding… there may be running and denying, but there is no hiding.

Verse 10 - *So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army*. Ezekiel is obedient. He knows he can do nothing to raise his nation, but he also knows the One that can. So I prophesied as He commanded me and the breath came, instantly and completely… the dead situation became life! They lived, they stood on their feet, imagine the sight! An exceedingly great army. God breathed in Genesis 2:7, and man became a living being. Revelation 11:11 – the breath of life from God entered the two witnesses and they stood on their feet. The secret is the Spirit and the Breath. It’s what quickens us and makes us live and it can do the same for others. The army is exceedingly great – this is a formidable force, effective, ready for service, living in the Spirit. And we, church, can only be a formidable force, effective, ready for service, when we are filled with the Spirit of the Living God, breathed on us and over us by our Savior Jesus Christ. Has Jesus breathed that Spirit upon you today? When we are walking as only sinew, flesh, and skin, we are as the dead walking through this world. It is the Holy Spirit sent by God, through belief in our Savior Jesus that quickens our souls and brings us to life.

This week, may we find that we are not just praying over the worldly situation, but we are calling for the Spirit to enter in, with all His Power! We are the vessels, but we must be obedient. Let us all be as Isaiah in Isaiah 6:8 *Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then, I said. “Here I am! Send me.”* May we speak boldly Here I am, Send Me. May we speak the Spirit of God boldly over every situation! When we do, His Authority and Power will awaken and change things we never believed possible.