

Faith in the Home, Sermon Notes and Applications for the Home

Pentecost, Ezekiel 37:1-14, "The Breath of God."

In the days of the prophet Ezekiel were not the brightest days in the history of God's people. Many of the people of Judah and Jerusalem were taken into captivity by Babylon and their king, Nebuchadnezzar. The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel who would have been a priest in the temple, but was now called to be a prophet by God. God's Word given to Ezekiel was not always encouraging but it proved to be true. Ezekiel prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed, and of course they were. But with God there is hope Ezekiel correctly prophesied a return to Jerusalem and a rebuilding of the temple. But perhaps his most famous prophesy (and may I add fun prophesy came with the vision that God gave him of a valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37).

In this vision the dryness of the bones signifies that depth of the spiritual death and decay of God's people. Yet the Lord, commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones in the valley of death. "O dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord. Behold, I will cause my breath to enter you and you shall live." An important note here is the Hebrew Word for breath. That word is *Ruach*, which is the same word for wind, and more importantly spirit. The Ruach of our God, Yahweh, is also the third person of the Trinity,

The Holy Spirit, and He gives us our faith. (Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit unto His disciples after He arose from the dead). What happened when the dry bones heard the Word of the Lord was a great rattle as bone connected to bone and sinews and flesh began to attach and cover the bones. Life entered in the people of God, and they were resurrected. God then prophesied that He would gather His people and place them in their own land.

This prophesy first tells us of God's plan to restore faith and return exiles to the promised land. Next, it also prophesies that God will raise His people from the dead. We know He will do this because His own Son, the second person of the trinity died on the cross for us, and arose from the dead. He who conquered death will raise us from our own deaths. Third, it is a foreshadowing of the day of Pentecost that followed Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven. The Holy Spirit, would come upon the apostles like a great and mighty wind. What followed was that the apostles preached God's Word and testified Jesus' death and resurrection to the people of God who came from various regions to celebrate Pentecost in Jerusalem at the Temple. Finally, it also foreshadows God gathering all His believers to His new creation after the resurrection of the dead.

The application that we can draw from this is that no matter how dark the world may get, and no matter what troubles we have. God will save and bring life to His people. You may even be having a "crisis of faith," where you are feeling "spiritually dead." God's Word, and His Holy Spirit continuously call out to His people. God is not done with you. God is not done with His Church. No matter what happens to the nations, the Church is eternal. The Church will be raised from the dead. The Church will be gathered in one place where we will dwell with our Lord, Jesus Christ.