

WE ARE AN ARMY IN INDIANA

IN Favor Resources video teaching series



CONCLUSION: **WE ARE PROPHECYING A VAST ARMY IN INDIANA**

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was on 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. ² He 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. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

This compelling story appears in a series of visions, prophecies, and prophetic acts performed by the prophet Ezekiel. This particular vision describes *how God can take a graveyard and transform it into “a vast army!”*

- It was “the hand of the Lord” upon Ezekiel that began it all (verse 1). It was the same hand that enabled Elijah to outrun a chariot (1 Kings 18:46), and caused Elisha to prophesy about another valley (2 Kings 3:15). The phrase occurs seven times in the book of Ezekiel—seven times when God was speaking to him in an unusual way.
- “The Spirit of the Lord” brought him out and set him in the middle of a valley, where the prophet was greeted by a gruesome sight: the valley was *full of dead men’s bones*. There were “a great many of them” (verse 2), and they “were very dry” (verse 3); this had not been a recent disaster, but a long process of death and decay. They were once corpses, but their flesh had rotted or been eaten away. The bones had dried in the weather, been bleached by the sun, and were scattered by scavengers. It was a scene of death.
- In these circumstances, God asked Ezekiel what appeared to be a ridiculous question: “Son of man, can these bones live?” (verse 3) What must Ezekiel have thought? He might have said, “Of course not!” But his answer was a restrained one; he acknowledged his helplessness and allowed for God’s power when he said, “Lord, you alone know.” Only God could know, and only God could do something about it.
- Then God enlisted Ezekiel’s help in this impossible task: the Lord commanded the prophet to “prophecy to these bones,” and he was to say to them, “Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!” (verse 4) And Ezekiel obeyed! He spoke to the bones—which had no ears and could not hear—and he told them that the Lord would give them tendons and flesh and skin, and give them breath and life (verses 5-6).

- And as he was speaking, *while he was prophesying to the bones*, it happened! “There was a noise, a rattling sound,” as the bones came together (verse 7). As the Lord had said, tendons and flesh and skin appeared (verse 8); the bones turned into skeletons, and the skeletons became bodies again! They looked much better, *but they were still dead*; “there was no breath in them” (verse 8).
- As before, Ezekiel was told to prophesy, saying what the Lord said: “Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live” (verse 9). Again, the prophet obeyed; and again, it happened just as God said it would: “Breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet” (verse 10).

It is the last phrase in the passage that speaks to us in Indiana. God had finished his work, using Ezekiel’s prophetic words to reassemble the scattered remains and reanimate the dead bodies. But this was no zombie apocalypse, or some confused and aimless rabble; God had taken a graveyard and *transformed it into “a vast army,”* an exceedingly great military force for the Day of the Lord.

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones Now hear the word of the Lord

Toe bone connected to the foot bone Foot bone connected to the heel bone
 Heel bone connected to the ankle bone Ankle bone connected to the shin bone
 Shin bone connected to the knee bone Knee bone connected to the thigh bone
 Thigh bone connected to the hip bone Hip bone connected to the back bone
 Back bone connected to the shoulder bone Shoulder bone connected to the neck bone
 Neck bone connected to the head bone Now hear the word of the Lord

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around, Now hear the word of the Lord.

—Johnson and Johnson

Skeleton bones stand at the sound of eternity On the lips of the found

And gravestones roll To the rhythm of the sound of you

We want your blood to flow inside our body We want your wind inside our lungs

—John Mark McMillan

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