

# Lord Send A Revival "Revival in the Valley"

**By Rev. Richard D. Jacobs**

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~ Table of Content ~

Content	Page (s)
1. The Need for Revival	2, 3
2. Revival Starts with God	4, 5
3. The Power of God's Word	6,7
4. Reviving Life	8,9
5. Reviving Hope	10,11



## THE NEED FOR REVIVAL

(Ezekiel 37:1-4)



*The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.*

*Ezekiel 37:1, 2 KJV*



The prophets were often called seers because of how vividly they would see the word of the Lord. Ezekiel was a true seer. God's word came alive to him in a valley that was full of sun dried bones scattered all around. God's word to Ezekiel is that these bones are the children of Israel and that He will be reviving them. Ezekiel was included in this promise. After all he was apart of those who were captured in Israel and carried away into Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel suffered through God judgment against Israel for their sins. Ezekiel endured losing all and being captive in a foreign land. He bore the burden of feeling cut off by God because of His recent response to their sins. So when God sat him in the middle of the valley Ezekiel could relate to the bones that needed a revival.



We all have felt a need for revival. Perhaps you feel like Ezekiel as you've walked around the lifeless remains of dreams, desires, visions, goals, hopes, plans and prayers. You may feel depleted, drained, empty, unfulfilled and unsatisfied. The feeling of being weak, weary and worn speaks to our need for revival. Like a car that needs fuel or the human body that needs food, our inner spiritual man has a constant need to be revived by God. There is a daily need that we stay connected to God as our life giving source.

Israel was disconnected from God and apart from God they could do nothing. But Jesus tells us in John 15:4-7, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In order for us to be fruitful and prosperous we must abide in Jesus who is the true vine. The preserving power that we need comes from God but apart from Him we walk in the midst of a valley of dry bones.



# REVIVAL STARTS WITH GOD

(Ezekiel 37: 5, 6)



*Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

*Ezekiel 37:5, 6 KJV*



The revival of these dry bones that Ezekiel sees will be done by the LORD God! God is letting Israel know that revival begins with Him. Today we often need this reminder. Many experts, specialists, doctors and celebrities speak of and sell ways to be rejuvenated and to recapture a former greatness. We often run after these self help programs and plans but for Christians revival comes from God. God promises Israel to breathe life into their dry bones, and cause tendons and skin to be regenerated upon them. These promises from God can only be received if Israel will turn to God.

If we will receive revival we must first turn to God. The setting for revival may vary, it could be good or bad times. Likewise, the need for revival may also vary,



from relief of the consequences of your sin to just weariness in the good fight but one fact will always be true - Revival begins with God. Revival is initiated when we turn to God in confession of our sins or in need of Him.

Revival begins when we turn from our sins or turn over all our cares to the Lord. Has sin crippled your life like the paralyzed man of Luke 5:17-39? Draw nigh to God for your sins to be forgiven and your life restored. Need God to take the little you have and revive it like He did for the widow of Zarephath in 1 King 17:8-16? Just give it to God. Revival starts when we seek God with all our hearts. Revival is James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Ezekiel is told that revival is what God will do for Israel. It is God that can breathe life in us when we're lifeless or when life knocks the breathe out of us. Only God can secure back together all the broken pieces of our life. Our God can cover us with that which protects us during the different seasons of life and guards us against what could harm us. No matter how hopeless or impossible the situation may be, turn to God. Then like Israel you will be able to testify that the Lord is God and God alone.



## **The Power of God's Word**

**(Ezekiel 37:7-9)**



*So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.*  
*Ezekiel 37:7 KJV*



Ezekiel is commanded by God to open his mouth and speak the word of the Lord. Imagine that, in a lifeless and dead situation, the instruction is to open his mouth and speak the word of the Lord. Few Christians understand Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Let us look again at Ezekiel because it is only after he opens his mouth and speaks the word of the Lord over the lifeless situation that he hears a noise, some shaking and things coming together.

He now sees the bones coming together with both tendons and skins covering them. This image applies to our lives as well, for outside of God's will and purpose situations always will seem disconnected, lifeless and dead. It is God's word that revives. It is God's word that renews and restores. His word refills and rejuvenates us.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 4:4 that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the



mouth of God. The story is told of an anxious child worrying their mother while their father was away. The child's nervousness was whether or not their father would remember to bring the gift that he promised. In response, the mother just kept repeating the same question to the child, didn't your father promise you that he would bring it? She simply kept assuring the child of their father's promise until he returned home with the gift. The word of God is His breathe and spoken word that blows on us. When we can hear the word of God in our situation it sparks in us revival. Just to know He loves you, has a plan for your life, is working all things together for your good, and has chosen you for such a time as this can be the amber that sets you ablaze.

When we begin to open our mouths and speak that same word of the Lord over our situations we begin to fan the flames of faith and see how all situations are connecting and moving for God's desired end. This is where we can experience revival even in a dismal situation because we know God's purpose and we can see Him fulfilling it for us. No matter how terrible the situation, like Ezekiel, open your mouth and prophesy the word of the Lord and watch Him move and connect the circumstances of life together for your ultimate good.



## Reviving Life

Ezekiel 37:10



*So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.*

*Ezekiel 37:10 KJV*



Ezekiel 37:10 is one of the best pictures of revival found in the Holy Bible. Yes, Israel was great. They were settled in the promised land and doing well. They did enjoy strength and security until God's judgment changed all of that. Israel's sin led to them being scattered from the promised land into Babylonian captivity. They were stripped of the freedom and pleasures of home. With every passing day in captivity they had the life of any hope drained from them. They were now left in the hands of shrewd scavengers that were as fierce to them as the scorching heat from the sun. The children of Israel were literally the dry bones in the valley.

We too at times can feel the same when we are in need of revival. In our lives revival is the "yes" to the question, can these dry bones live again?



With the life that comes from the word of the Lord, our answer is always "yes" to revival. Ezekiel sees what revival can do for us. Revival can give us new life from a dry and dead situation. Revival can stand us up on our feet after the weight of so many things have knocked us down. Revival can give us the fight of a soldier in a great army. That's the power of revival.

Revival is renewed fortitude and strength to get up each day and to keep fighting day in and day out no matter what comes our way. That is revival, a renewed hope and faith in God even while you're in your valley experience. Can you see Israel revived with hope and faith while in captivity because of the life that the word of God brought? God's word can bring about the same reviving life in us too.



## Reviving Hope

Ezekiel 37:11-14



*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.*

*Ezekiel 37:11 KJV*



God desires that we always have hope in Him. These are the Apostle Paul's sentiments in Romans 15:13 where he says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." The hopeless situation Israel was in was a result of their lost hope in God. All expectancy and trust that they had in God was lost in a dispirited downward spiral. They no longer held to any of the promises of God nor had any feeling of a desirable outcome. They felt cut off and rejected by God. They no longer felt apart of God's good pleasure. They lost their spiritual way. Have you felt this way before? Due to all the trials and tests of life have you ever lost confidence in God? When things got extremely dark and tough in your life have you ever lost the assurance of hope of a brighter better future? Have you ever needed God to speak revival to your soul?

When God speaks His word to us in our valleys He is reassuring us that He is our God and that we are His children.



God tells Ezekiel to say to Israel, "O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 37:12) Be assured of Romans 4:17, because it is only God who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. God's word can give us reviving hope, Him speaking to us let's us know that we are not cut off nor rejected by Him. God's word gives us confidence in Him and generates assuring peace in knowing that we are still participants in God's future plans.

For Israel this meant that God was going to revive them, bring them out of captivity, and reestablish them in the promised land. They now had hope that they would be apart of all the promises that God would perform. How reviving! This is what revival means to the Christian. Revival is God speaking His word to us, assuring us that we are His children and giving us confident hope in His power to perform His promises. Revival can give us life in the most lifeless situation. Revival can cause hope to spring forth even in a hopeless situation. Revival can give you the strength to go on even in the toughest of times. Revival can help you see a brighter and better future. Revival can give you confidence in the power and promises of God. Revival can refresh, renew and regenerate you. May God send a revival even in your valley. I pray that God would revive you again!



# NOTES

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# Lord Send A Revival "Revival in the Valley"

A valley is defined as an elongate depression of the earth's surface usually between ranges of hills or mountains. It can also be defined by an area drained by a river and its tributaries. Other definitions highlight a valley as a low point or condition and the place of meeting of two slopes of a roof that form on the plane a reentrant angle.

A biblical definition of valley is a low place between two highs; a draining place; or a meeting place of lows where revival can take place. Take a walk with the Prophet Ezekiel in his valley and learn how God can send a revival in your valley!

Rev. Richard D. Jacobs serves as Pastor of the New Popular Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Dadeville, AL. An avid teacher and preacher, Rev. Jacobs completed his biblical studies at Christian Leaders Institute. He is married to Mrs. Khady Jacobs and they have two wonderful children.



About the Author



# Encouraging Bible Verses

from

## Ezekiel Chapter 37

### Verses 1-14



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#### Ezekiel 37:1-4 KJV

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

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Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall

*going to put  
BREATH  
into you  
LIVE  
AGAIN  
Ezekiel 37:5*

**Ezekiel 37:5,6 KJV**

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So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

**Ezekiel 37:7-9 KJV**

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#### Ezekiel 37:10 KJV

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

#### Ezekiel 37:11-14 KJV

Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.