

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

Come Alive in 2025

SERIES

DATE

1/5/2025

KEY SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

SYNOPSIS

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Come Alive in 2025

As I said last week, I don't always establish a theme for the year, but this time around, I felt led to do so. Then, it was confirmed by others independently having the same leading. I sense that 2025 is going to be a significant year for us. I'm still working out what all God has in mind, but for starters, Ezekiel 37 came to mind. Ezekiel's vision there has a profound scene of new life where it seemed impossible.

☞ Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 The hand of the Lord was upon 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.

There are some listening today that can relate to this picture. Things in your life seem dead, dry and desperate. In the natural, it seems that there's no hope. "Down in the valley, the valley so low"... but not only that, this valley is full of dry bones.

3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Smart answer; neither cynical, nor presumptuous. Either can be problematic. Cynicism can become unbelief, which is greatly offensive to the Lord. Presumption can become self-reliant pride – also an affront to God. But, Ezekiel acknowledges God's sovereignty. Adonai Yahweh. Our creator God is also ☞ Lord; **he can do whatever he pleases because he has the ability and the authority to do so.**

4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

Hear the word of the Lord. In our case, we can read the word of the Lord. But don't read it just to flip ☞ through the pages. **Read it to hear what God is saying in the moment.** His word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), and God can supernaturally speak to your heart and soul with whatever scripture you happen to be reading on any given day. You may have read that passage numerous times before, but now, just like these bones, it comes alive to you today. We need to read the word with a prayer something like this: "Lord, speak to my heart through the scripture today. Breathe life into me through your word." When He does, that is when the logos word becomes a rhema word. (Romans 10:17)

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."

Again, God is the Lord who can do whatever he pleases. He promises new life through his spirit. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6)

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.

☞ **2 Corinthians 3:6**
the Spirit gives life.



Church, we need more of the Spirit. I want to be Spirit-led. I want our church to be Spirit-led. I want you to be Spirit-led.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Romans 8:14

those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Here, this being led by the Spirit is in the present tense, meaning to be constantly influenced by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18-20 NLT compares the influence of the Holy Spirit with the effect of strong drink...18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Here's my paraphrase: the more you drink alcohol, the more influence it will have over your speech ☞ and actions. Don't do that. Instead, **let the Holy Spirit influence you**. Drink in more of the Holy Spirit by worshiping the Lord with thanksgiving. Just as you might drink another glass to get more drunk, sing another song of worship, express another thanks and get more filled with and influenced by the Spirit.*

7a So I prophesied as I was commanded.

☞ **We need to make sure our words align with God's word.** Are we speaking truth and faith?

David declared that Goliath was going down before the battle began. No one really thought David was going to win that little skirmish, but he did. (1 Sam 17:45-47)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fearlessly claimed that God could protect them. Whether or not God's deliverance came was irrelevant. They chose to believe in God rather than their troubles. (Daniel 3:17-18)

Jehoshaphat is a favorite. An enemy that he had shown mercy to in the past came against him to destroy him. When he went to God over it the word received was, "God will deliver you." Jehoshaphat's response was to go into battle with the choir leading the way. Their job was to praise God for the victory that had not yet come! (2 Chronicles 20:21-22; 24)

The Bible is filled with stories of those who chose to rehearse God's Promises.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV

We live by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7 NLT

For we live by believing and not by seeing



7b And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

*God's answers are on the way as soon as we start to pray. Daniel 9:23... "As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you. For you are loved very much." When you pray and begin speaking God's word into your situations, pay attention to hear and see what God is already doing. And **be willing to wait, keeping the faith** in the meantime. His answer is on the way.*

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, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four winds, O breath, 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.

Here again, we see how important the Spirit is. The breath is the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit! Jesus told his disciples to wait until the Spirit was poured out on them.

Acts 1:4-5, 8

"Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 8 you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

Then, in Acts 2 we see them waiting and worshipping in unity together when the Holy Spirit is poured out. From then on, they went out with demonstrations of power, winning the lost.

11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'

*For some, you have been waiting a very long time for God's promises in your life. I can relate. I have received several confirming prophecies from the Lord, which have not yet come to pass. There have been times that I've felt like the house of Israel in this passage. "Hope is gone; I'm cut off." Some of you have been here long enough to remember various promises to our church and have still not seen all the results. It can cause doubt and discouragement. But **God's promises never fail.***

Joshua 21:45

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Numbers 23:19

19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from



them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."¹⁴

☞ **There is no situation that is beyond God's ability** to handle. It may seem hopeless, but with God all things are possible. It's been said, "there are no hopeless situations; only people who have grown hopeless about them." When God speaks and breathes the life of the Holy Spirit into us, even dead things can come alive. Lazarus had been dead 4 days, but then Jesus called out his name, and he arose from the dead. We can come alive in 2025.

☞ Hear the voice of the Lord. **Quiet your mind and heart to listen.** What is God saying to you personally? What is he saying to OBC?

☞ **Speak the word of the Lord.** Be neither cynical nor presumptuous. Acknowledge his authority, and stand on the promises. **Keep on believing.** Don't give up.

☞ **Welcome the Holy Spirit.** He's God's gift to us. Don't reject the gift. Seek his will in all things, slow down and wait on him, sing his praises with gratitude, and surrender to his leadership in your life.

☞ **Come alive in 2025.**

Can we play "Rattle" (Elevation Worship) as we dismiss?