

Subject: Guidelines for Prophesying message 13

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Thirteen : The Dry Bones Being Enlivened to Become an Exceedingly Great Army and the Two Pieces of Wood Being Joined Together for the Building of the House of God

I. Overview :

The book of Ezekiel has four main sections, and three chapters in it may be considered great chapters which are chap.1 - fire, chap.37 - breath, chap.47 - water in the Bible. Ezek. 37 reveals how God's Spirit comes into us in order to enliven us so that we may be formed into an army and also build up as God's dwelling place. As Ezekiel was prophesying, God was blowing upon the dry bones, sending the wind, the breath, and the Spirit. When he prophesied the first time, there was a noise and a rattling, and all the bones came together; the second time, the breath came into the very dry and dead bones, and they lived and stood up upon their feet, and exceedingly great army. The two lifeless pieces of wood, which symbolize the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel, could not be one. The dead bones and branches were enlivened and became one that the unique way is the way of life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. What are the four main sections in the book of Ezekiel?

The book of Ezekiel has four main sections. The first section, consisting of chapter 1, speaks of the glorious vision of God. The second section, composed of chapters 2 through 32, speaks of God's judgement. The third section, which includes chapters 33 through 39, concerns God's recovery of a remnant of His people. The fourth section, consisting of chapters 40 through 48, speaks about the matter of God's building.

B. How to describe God's recovery of His people from Ezek. 33 - 37?

We saw that the Lord set the watchman in chapter 33, and chapter 34 emphasized His coming as a Shepherd to seek His lost sheep as well as to bring them back to their own land. In chapter 36, the Lord recovered His people by life, giving them a new heart and a new spirit. Chapter 37 revealed that the Lord came to revive His dead and scattered people and to make them one.

Day 2 --

A. How do we know what our inner being is from the light of Ezek. 37?

We were not only dead but also became dry bones. In the sight of God, when we were fallen, either as a sinner or as a backslidden believer, we were dead and buried in "graves". Before we were saved, we were all buried in some kind of grave. We were sinful, dead, buried, and dried up. We had no blood, no flesh, no sinew, skin but just dry bones.

B. What kind of attitude should we have towards our situation from John 5:25?

The Lord says that an hour is coming, and it is now; when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. It is a blessing to realize that we are dead and that we need the Lord to enliven us. I should humble myself and pray, " Lord, I confess how dead I am. I need You to breathe the breath of life into me so that I may live."

Day 3 --

A. What effect would it bring as Ezekiel prophesied?

The prophesying here is a matter of declaring something or speaking something forth. When Ezekiel prophesied, He would send the breath and the wind. From this we can see clearly that the main meaning of prophesying is not to predict but to speak forth something for the Lord. As Ezekiel was prophesying, God was blowing upon the dry bones, sending the wind, the breath, and the Spirit.

B. How should we become today's Timothy?

We should be today's Timothy; be charged to commit the healthy words, a rich deposit of the truth, to faithful men, who will be competent to teach others. Proclaim the word of truth, being ready in season and out of season. This is our heavenly breathing; we breathe in God's breath to breathe out by speaking everyday.

Day 4 --

A. Explain that three things in Ezekiel 37 are related to prophesying.

They are the wind, the breath, and the Spirit. When God blows upon us, that is the wind; when we breathe the wind, it is the breath; and when the breath comes into us, it is the Spirit. When Ezekiel prophesied, God blew the wind, the people received the breath, and the breath became the Spirit, the life-giving Spirit.

B. How is it applicable to our experience in Ezek. 37:8?

The dry bones must first come together, and then the breath will come into them. If we do not gather together, we will not have the breath of God. We should first come together, with "a noise" and "a shaking", and then the breath of God will be breathed upon us.

Day 5 --

A. How do we expound Ezek. 37 from its spiritual aspect?

Before God came in to regenerate us, we were like dead and dry bones. God's salvation is not only for those who are sinful but also for those who are dead. Because we were dead and dry, we were also scattered. The Lord came in to rescue us through the prophesying of His word. As what Ezekiel prophesied, so also the sinews, flesh, and skin came upon the bones, covering the bones.

B. What did the bones happen as Ezekiel prophesied further?

When Ezekiel prophesied again, the breath came into the very dry and dead bones. The bones became a body first, then God sent the breath to enter into the dead body, and they lived, stood up upon their feet, to become an exceedingly great army to fight the battle for God.

Day 6 --

A. What do the two lifeless pieces of wood symbolize?

The two lifeless pieces of wood symbolize the two parts of the divided nation of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel. These two kingdoms could not be one, and in the eyes of the Lord they were thoroughly dead and dried up. After being enlivened, they can be joined together and become one. The two pieces of wood are for the building of the house of God as His dwelling place.

B. Explain what is the way of God's house in the genuine oneness from Ezek.37?

Ezek. 37 clearly reveals that the practical way to have the Body, the church, and the house of God is the way of life, and which is the only way, the unique way. Two dry, dead branches can grow together not by gifts or teachings but by life. Then by the way of life the two dry, dead branches could grow together. Life is wonderful. It takes care of so many problems. Our physical body can overcome many problems simply because it is living.

III. Conclusion :

Ezekiel 37 reveals that the Lord comes to revive His dead and scattered people and to make them one; because they had become dead, dry bones, they needed to be enlivened and joined together. When Ezekiel prophesied the first time, there was a noise and a rattling, and all the bones came together; the second time, the bones lived and stood up to become an exceedingly great army, to fight the battle for God. From everyday's morning revival, we need to experience God-breathed again and again, making us, the dead bones, to be enlivened and to become an exceedingly great army to fight the battle for God's gospels and saints' shepherding.