10/10/21

Sun am

Revived By His Word

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Focus: Life and revived life comes only from His word.

Function: To cause to hold high the word of God and take every opportunity to hear it.

Other passages: Genesis 1; Revelation 19:11-16; 2 Tim 3:16a; James 1:18, 21; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Matt 4:1-11; Luke 24:13-32; 1 Cor 1:21

**Greeting**

**Read text**

* Context: Israel (Judah) is in captivity in Babylon, Jerusalem has fallen. God is speaking through His prophet, Ezekiel. There has already been a call to repentance in the prophecy. Now God is speaking to a discouraged, dejected people who desperately long to be restored, but it seems impossible. God shows the people, through Ezekiel, that He would do it.
  + The vision of the valley of dry bones
    - No sign of life and not even chance of resuscitation…they’re bones, and they’re dry.

“Ezekiel stared down into the valley, Filled with dry bones baking in the sun, Remains that used to be a mighty army, To him it looked like their fighting days were done.”

* + - God’s question, “Can these bones live?” (sounds like a trick question to me 😉)
    - God’s direction: “Speak what I’m about to tell you.”

“But driven by a calling on his life, He spoke Gods words the bones began to shake, He stared wide-eyed as the flesh began to form, And as he prophesied to the wind, The soldiers began to wake”

* + Now, remember the context: this prophecy was to Israel and not to us. \*So what does this have to do with me at all?! Pay attention to the principle…what is the truth so powerfully illustrated for us here?
* God does stuff – impossible stuff – by His word.
  + Genesis 1 (creation)
  + John 11 (Lazarus)
  + Revelation 19:11-16 (conquering evil)
* He has spoken. 2 Timothy 3:16a
  + What are some other things His word accomplishes?
    - Salvation. James 1:18, 21 – “Brought us forth by the word of truth”
    - Conviction. Hebrews 4:12 – Piercing into the depths of us and “discerning the thoughts and intents of our hearts”
    - 2 Timothy 3:15-17
      * Make us wise for salvation
      * Teaching (to know truth)
      * Reproof (rebuke – pointing out wrong belief and behavior; exposing sin)
      * Correction (restoring; walking alongside after reproof)
      * Training in righteousness (training in right living)
  + Jesus’s using of the word in His ministry
    - Luke 4:43 (“I must preach…for I was sent for this purpose”)
    - Matt 4:1-11 (Temptation in the wilderness)
    - Luke 24:13-32 (Emmaus road)
  + Btw, it’s not about the delivery system, it’s the word
    - Ezekiel: “You know, Lord”
      * Power is not in the confidence/personality/style of the preacher
      * Power is not in your reading/comprehension level

God does stuff by His word. He has spoken. Life and revived life comes only by His word. We must position ourselves to receive it.