

Ezekiel 37:10

Authorized King James Version (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.

Analysis

Ezekiel's obedience produces immediate results: 'the breath came into them, and they lived.' The phrase 'as he commanded me' emphasizes faithful prophetic ministry—Ezekiel precisely obeyed God's instructions without addition or subtraction. The result transcends natural explanation: breath entered, bones lived, and they 'stood up upon their feet' (va'ya'amdu al ragleihem), indicating full restoration to strength and function, not mere survival. The description 'an exceeding great army' (chayil gadol me'od me'od) envisions organized, powerful forces ready for action, not scattered individuals. The Hebrew intensifies 'great' with double me'od (exceedingly, exceedingly great), emphasizing the magnificent scale of restoration. This transformation from scattered bones to mighty army illustrates sovereign grace's comprehensive work: regeneration (life), justification (standing), and sanctification (organization into effective service). The passage points to the church as God's new covenant army, equipped by the Spirit for spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Historical Context

The image of a vast army addressed Israel's military impotence in exile. Nebuchadnezzar had slaughtered or scattered Judah's forces, leaving the nation defenseless. God's promise to raise an 'exceeding great army' assured eventual restoration when Israel would again function as a corporate entity with strength and purpose. This saw partial fulfillment in post-exilic Israel's return and

rebuilding, but the ultimate fulfillment comes in the Messiah's kingdom where redeemed Israel serves God's purposes (Zechariah 12:6-9). Christian theology sees the church as spiritual Israel, brought from death to life by the Spirit, standing together as God's army advancing His kingdom (Matthew 16:18). The sequence from death to individual life to corporate standing illustrates the progression from regeneration through incorporation into Christ's body.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the transformation from scattered bones to organized army illustrate the corporate nature of redemption and the importance of the church?
2. What does Ezekiel's exact obedience ('as he commanded me') teach about faithful ministry and the connection between obedience and effectiveness?

Interlinear Text

So I prophesied	H5012	בָּאֵשׁ רָאָה נִבְנֵת אֹתִי	H834	as he commanded	H6680	בָּאֵשׁ מִתְבֹּא	H935	came	H0	בָּר וּמִתְבֹּא	H7307	me and the breath
into them and they lived	H2421	בָּאֵשׁ וְלֹא יָמַת	H5921	and stood up	H5975	עַל יָמַדְוּ	H7272	upon their feet	H2428	בְּגָלִיל מִתְבֹּא	H1419	great army
an exceeding	H3966	מְאֹד:	H3966	an exceeding	H3966	מְאֹד:	H3966	an exceeding	H3966	מְאֹד:	H3966	an exceeding

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:11 (Parallel theme): And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

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