

Ezekiel 37:11

Authorized King James Version (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.

Analysis

"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." God interprets the vision—the bones represent Israel in exile, feeling hopeless and finished. The threefold complaint—"bones dried," "hope lost," "cut off"—expresses utter despair. Yet this is precisely when God acts most dramatically. When human hope dies, divine intervention appears most glorious. The gospel addresses such complete hopelessness—humans are dead in sin, without hope (Ephesians 2:12), yet God resurrects them. Despair precedes deliverance.

Historical Context

The exiles' complaint (587 BC) reflected accurate self-assessment—nationally dead, humanly hopeless. Decades in captivity with no prospect of return bred despair. The "we are cut off" echoes covenant curses threatening national extinction (Leviticus 26:38-39). Yet God's promises transcend human circumstances. The darkest hour precedes dawn—Christ rose after crucifixion, church exploded after persecution. This pattern recurs: God works most powerfully when human hope exhausts itself. The passage encourages believers in desperate circumstances—when we reach the end, God begins.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What situations feel hopelessly dead, requiring supernatural intervention beyond human possibility?
2. How does reaching the end of human hope position us to experience God's power most fully?

Interlinear Text

כֹּל פָּא לֹה עֲצָמוֹת יִנּוּ אָמָר יְמִין אַלְיִם
Then he said H413 unto me Son of man Our bones H428 H3605
H559 H1121 H120 H6106

יִבְשֵׁנָה אָמָר יְמִין יִשְׁבָּא לְבַבְּ יִתְהַלֵּל הַבָּבָה הַמָּה הַבָּבָה
are the whole house of Israel H1992 H2009 Then he said are dried H3001
H1004 H3478 H559 H3001

לֹכְדָּה תִּתְּרַכֵּד תִּתְּקַרְבֵּן וְאֶתְּדָה עֲצָמוֹת יִנּוּ
Our bones is lost and our hope we are cut off H0
H6106 H6 H8615 H1504

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:1 (Parallel theme): And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ezekiel 39:25 (References Israel): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

Jeremiah 31:1 (References Israel): At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:10 (References Israel): And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded:

Hosea 1:11 (References Israel): Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Isaiah 49:14 (Parallel theme): But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

Psalms 141:7 (Parallel theme): Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.

Jeremiah 2:25 (Hope): Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.

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