

Ezekiel 37:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

Analysis

"And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry." The phrase "very many" emphasizes comprehensive death—not just a few bones but the entire nation. "Very dry" indicates long-dead, not recently deceased—hope has long since vanished. God ensures Ezekiel fully comprehends the hopelessness before revealing the solution. This pattern appears throughout Scripture: God allows us to feel the full weight of impossibility before demonstrating His power. The gospel addresses such total death—humans aren't slightly sick but completely dead, requiring resurrection not resuscitation.

Historical Context

The exiles (587 BC) felt beyond hope—decades in captivity with no prospect of return. The "very dry" bones depicted decades of dispersion, not temporary setback. God wanted Ezekiel to grasp the magnitude of promised restoration: not minor improvement but resurrection from death. The vision's fulfillment began with the return from Babylon but finds complete expression in spiritual resurrection through the gospel. Every conversion demonstrates Ezekiel 37—God raising dead souls to spiritual life.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your spiritual death apart from grace enhance appreciation for salvation?
2. What situations seem "very dry" and hopeless, requiring God's resurrection power?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲבֹר בְּיָמָיו	סְבִיבָם	סְבִיבָם
And caused me to pass	by them round about	by them round about
H5674	H5921	H5439
רַב וְתַהֲבֵה	מְאֹד:	עַל פְּנֵי הַבְּקָעָה
H2009	H7227	H3966
many	and behold there were very	in the open
H3966	H5921	H6440
יבָשׁ וְתַהֲבֵה	מְאֹד:	בְּקָעָה
H2009	H3002	H1237
dry	and behold there were very	valley

Additional Cross-References

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

Ezekiel 37:11 (Parallel theme): 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.

