

## **Rise as an exceedingly great army**

Ezekiel 37,1-14

Key Verse 37,10

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Welcome to GLEF 2021.

We thank and praise God for granting us this forum for the mobilization of the next generation and raising them as global leaders for the spiritual revival in our generation.

When we look at this world, we experienced many incidents, that make us lose hope.

The pandemic through SARS-Cov-2 has so far cost more than 4 million lives worldwide and the toll is still rising.

But more serious is the spiritual situation of young people and more than that the situation of the church. It is a common picture that many churches are empty and church building are sold. It is a consequence of inner disorder and the lack of the word of God. Even pastors don't call sin a sin anymore and are blessing same-sex partnerships.

Where can we find hope? Where can we find vision?

Today we want to look at the vision which God gave to prophet Ezekiel in chapter 37. May God open our spiritual eyes to see, what great work God is doing among us and renew the vision and hope and prayer of all parents and shepherds for the next generation.

Prophet Ezekiel lived during the Babylonian captivity. At that time his people were in a desperate situation. Ezekiel was brought to Babylon with the second wave of prisoners when he was 25 years old. At the age of 37 he received the message that Jerusalem had been raided and finally destroyed. The nation Israel did no longer exist. This was the situation of no hope.

But in the midst of this desperate situation God led Ezekiel in the spirit to a valley and showed him His vision. This valley was full of dry bones, scattered all over the place. Ezekiel was shocked and scared, walking around between these dry bones. They had been human beings. Now they were unrecognizable. In one word there was only the power of death over this valley. There was absolutely no hope.

Let us look at verse 3, “And he said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ And I answered. ‘O Lord God, You know.’” God asked Ezekiel a surprising question, “Son of man, can these bones live?” Humanly speaking there was no way for them to live again. They all died a long time ago. But Ezekiel did not despair because of the situation, but he answered by faith. He fixed his eyes on God, and answered: “O Lord God, you know it.” He found hope in the almighty power of God, who can do all things.

Then God asked him to prophecy words of revival to these bones. “You dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.” When Ezekiel obeyed, he experienced, how the bones came back to live step by step. Rattling, moving of bones, bones connecting, sinews restored, flesh growing, covered with skin – but: no breath. They were only flesh, dead bodies, without any spirit. So God commissioned Ezekiel again to prophecy to the spirit also. When he obeyed the spirit blew into the bodies and they became alive, they rose, they stood on their feet, they formed a mighty army, which was ready to fight for the glory of the Lord. Let us read verse 10, “So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

Verses 11 to 14 give us the historical interpretation of this vision. Israel was like dead bones, having lost all their hopes. They believed that Babylon would basically be their grave, where they lived, died and disappeared. But God had hope and wanted to make them alive again, restoring them as His people and bringing them back to their home country. This amazing story would happen starting about 40 years later with the return of the Jews to their country, the restoration of the temple worship and finally the coming of Messiah Jesus (who is from the people of Israel).

The spiritual situation of young people in our generation is also like dry bones. Unbelief, atheism, humanism are widely spread and young people have no relation with their God, claiming their own will and independence, from God as well as from their parents. Even among believers so many children leave the church, only searching for human success and their own will and glory. Some of them are trapped from love for money, some are trapped with computer games and some are trapped with their rebellion and laziness. But God asks us: “Can these bones live?” Through faith in God Almighty we can answer: “O Lord, God, you know.” God wants us to have faith, hope and vision, especially for the next generation. By faith we can prophecy through building 1:1 teams. We prophecy through the messages and special lectures and all the programs at GLEF with the hope of making these dry bones alive.

And this is not just a dream, but it is a reality. Through GLEF 2020 we have seen God’s mighty work in our next generation. David Park and Abraham Kim and many others were raised as servants of the Word. Young people repented of their rebellion and sinful desires and decided to follow God and obey His word.

As a teenager Samuel Abraham had bad grades. Moreover he had a tick problem, where even Dr. Google found no cure. But with the help of his parents he repented from his sins and through Hebrews 5,8.9 he learned the obedience of Jesus. This year he finished his high school with straight "A" (1.0) and glorified God.

In Josua even the experts saw only dead bones. They said, he will be a loser all his life: "Don't even try to teach him." But his parents read Genesis 1,1 and believed that God is not helpless. By faith they prayed and he attended regular school all the way. He even formed a prayer group at his high school. He glorified God through graduation this year and grows as a mighty general.

In my case I sometimes lost hope, when my daughter was rebellious, nearly dropped from high school, stole and wanted to dump her life. But God worked in her heart with 1 Peter 4,13 and she made a decision to participate in Jesus' suffering. Since then, she became alive in Jesus.

Praise God who makes dry bones alive.

What than is our part? God is making dry bones alive, but he wants to cooperate with us, as we prophecy the word of God by faith. God's word has the power of salvation. God's word is making young people alive, transforming them so they can grow as global leaders for the spiritual revival in this generation. God is raising a vast army of God, who can carry the word of God to the 1,700 campuses in Europe, in America, in Russia, in Turkey, in the Muslim world. Let us continually pray for our next generation and for the students of each campus, to make them fully alive as global spiritual leaders who can transform the world.

Amen.

Let us read the key verse 37,10 again, "So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army."