

**Overview:** In the outline I, shows an bird's eye view of the four sections of the book of Ezekiel. II indicates that the great three chapters of the book of Ezekiel are the chapter 1—fire, the chapter 37—breath, and the chapter 47—water. The three crystals in chapter 37 are III (the dry bones being enlivened to become an exceedingly great army), IV (the two woods are jointed together in union) and V (build up the house of God) and they are related directly to the main subject.

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| <p>I. The book of Ezekiel has four main sections:</p>   | <p>A. The first section, consisting of chapter 1, speaks of the glorious vision of God and reveals the holy God in His glory.</p> | <p>B. The second section, composed of chapters 2 through 32, speaks of God's judgment to deal with all things and matters that do not match His righteousness, holiness, and glory.</p> | <p>C. The third section, which includes chapters 33 through 39, concerns God's recovery of a remnant of His people; this indicates that the main idea in this section is the Lord's recovery.</p>   | <p>D. The fourth section, consisting of chapters 40 through 48, speaks about God coming to build His beloved recovered people into His dwelling place; this section is devoted to the matter of God's building.</p> |
| <p>II. In the book of Ezekiel there are three chapters which may be considered great chapters in the Bible—chapter 1, chapter 37, and chapter 47:</p>   |   | <p>A. Each of these chapters may be represented by a single word: chapter 1—fire; chapter 37—breath; and chapter 47—water.</p>  | <p>B. Chapter 37 reveals that the Lord comes to revive His dead and scattered people and to make them one; because they had become dead, dry bones, they needed to be enlivened and joined together.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>III. Ezekiel 37 reveals how God's Spirit comes into us in order to enliven us so that we may become a corporate Body formed into an army and also built up as God's dwelling place:</b></p> <p>A. The vision of the dry bones shows that before God came in to renew and regenerate us, we were not only sinful and filthy but also dead and buried in "graves" of various sinful, worldly, and religious things.</p> <p>B. We were like dead and dry bones, disjointed and scattered, having no oneness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether we were an unsaved sinner or a backslidden believer, this was our situation; not only unbelieving sinners need to be delivered from their graves, but even many brothers and sisters need to be revived and delivered from death and from their graves.</li> <li>Today many Christians are buried in the graves of denominations, sects, divisions, independent groups, and different movements.</li> <li>Formerly, we were in such graves, dead, dry, scattered, disjointed, and not connected to anyone, but the Lord is the Savior of the dead; God's word here is to cause a dead person to become a living person.</li> </ol> <p>C. Ezekiel's prophesying in Ezekiel 37 was not a matter of predicting but a matter of speaking forth, declaring, something for the Lord:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Ezekiel spoke forth, God gave people the Spirit:</li> <li>The main meaning of prophesying in the Bible is not to predict but to speak forth the Lord, to minister the Lord to people:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"He who prophesies builds up the church"</li> <li>"You can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged"</li> <li>Prophesying, speaking for God and speaking forth God with God as the content, ministers God to the hearers and brings them to God; the church meeting should be filled with God, and all its activities should convey and transmit God to people so that they may be infused with God—vv. 24-25.</li> <li>In order to prophesy, we must be a man of God with the breath of God                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our reading of the Bible should be a kind of inhaling, and our teaching of the Bible should be a kind of exhaling.</li> <li>When we are speaking for the Lord, we should have the sense that we are exhaling God and that the recipients are inhaling God.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Prophesying makes us an overcomer; prophesying is the function of the overcomers</li> </ol> </li> <li>As Ezekiel was prophesying, God was blowing upon the dry bones, sending the wind, the breath, and the Spirit:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hebrew word ruach is variously translated "wind," "breath," "spirit" in verses 5 through 10 and 14.</li> <li>In spiritual experience, when God blows on us, His breath is the wind; when we breathe the wind, it is the breath; and when the breath is within us, it is the Spirit.</li> <li>When Ezekiel prophesied, God blew the wind, the people received the breath, and the breath became the Spirit, the life-giving Spirit</li> </ol> </li> <li>When Ezekiel prophesied the first time (Ezek. 37:7), there was a noise and a rattling, and all the bones came together; when we come together in the meetings and make a joyful noise by calling on the Lord and praising Him, we are truly one.</li> <li>When Ezekiel prophesied the second time, the breath came into the "very dry" and dead bones, "and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army", to fight the battle for God.</li> </ol> |   |   | <p><b>IV. The two lifeless pieces of wood symbolize the two parts of the divided nation of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel</b></p> <p>A. These two kingdoms could not be one, and in the eyes of the Lord they were thoroughly dead and dried up.</p> <p>B. After being enlivened and by he growth in life, they can be joined together and become one</p> <p>C. This is very similar to grafting, in which two branches are joined and eventually grow together</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing together denotes an organic union in which growth takes place, so that one partakes of the life and characteristics of the other; in the organic union with Christ, whatever Christ passed through has become our history.</li> <li>His death and resurrection are now ours because we are in Him and are organically joined to Him; this is grafting</li> <li>Such a grafting (1) discharges all our negative elements, (2) resurrects our God-created faculties, (3) uplifts our faculties, (4) enriches our faculties, and (5) saturates our entire being to transform us.</li> </ol> <p>D. Whereas the dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-14 are for forming an army to fight the battle for God, the pieces of wood in verses 16 through 22 are for the building of the house of God as His dwelling place.</p> <p><b>V. The revelation in this chapter shows that the unique way to have the Body, the church, and the house of God in the genuine oneness is the way of life:</b></p> <p>A. When the breath entered into the dead ones, it became life to them, and they lived and stood up in oneness to become an exceedingly great army.</p> <p>B. The dry bones in verses 1 through 14 and the two dead branches in verses 16 and 17 became one not by gifts or by teaching but by life</p> <p>C. The dead bones and the dead branches were enlivened and became one as the issue of the dispensing of life and the growth in life</p> |   |

Experience ①: Accept that yourself is not only sinful but also dead, and let the Lord to breathe the breath of life into you

Ezek 37:4 Then He said to me, Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah. 5 Thus says the Lord Jehovah to these bones: I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them; and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

In Ezekiel 37 God is speaking not to the sick but to the dead. It is blessing to realize that we are dead and that we need the Lord to enliven us. God's word in this chapter is not to make a sick person well and not to turn an evil person into a good person; God's word here is to cause a dead person to become a living person. I hope that many will humble themselves before the Lord and pray, "Lord, I confess that I am not only sick and sinful – I admit that I am dead. My heart and my spirit are dead. Lord, I am completely dead and dry. I am like a pile of dead, dry bones. O Lord, I need Your life to come into me. I need You to breathe the breath of life into me so that I may live."

Praise the Lord that He did not leave us in our situation but came in to rescue us!

#### For Marriage Life

Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit, 23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind 24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality. 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,

In the marriage life, if you live an old man, you will become a king in your house and decide everything without fellowship with your spouse. You even try to hide your failures from your spouse. This old manner of life is not only corrupted but also dead.

Be aware not to live your marriage life according to your former manner of life. A married couple live together every day in so close relationship each other. This makes them less hesitation between them and they begin to feel less alarmed against the old man. Intimate relationship between a husband and a wife needs to be built up according to the manner of life of the new man. In order to accomplish it, i) your spirit need to be burning and strengthened, and ii) your mind needs to be set on the spirit and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. When you are being renewed in the spirit of your mind, you can put off the old man and put on the new man. It also means that the dead person is made alive, and a separate couple with no oneness can become one.

When any problems with your partner come up, try to resolve them. Most of the problems are caused by the fact that you are living according to the old man, that is, you are spiritually dead. However, God can breathe into you to revive you who are dead. So first you should come to the Lord and pray for your situation. Since the Lord is always trying to build up in life the relationship among the married couple, you should fellowship with the Lord and with your partner by faith. You should not feel disappointed and become unbelieving to consider your partner as a nuisance or an enemy. You also should not say your partner is like the "air" that can be neglected. A wife is a helper, a complement of a husband. Relationship between a husband and a wife does not grow automatically, but needs to be built up over time in love. If you neglect efforts to build up, you will reap the corruption, such as in-home separation or middle-aged divorce.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows unto his own flesh will reap corruption of the flesh, but he who sows unto the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.

Experience ②: The spiritual breathing: Inhaling the word of the Lord and exhaling the word by speaking

Second Timothy 4:2 says, "Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season." ...The word in 4:2 is the word of the Bible, comprised of what Timothy learned both of Paul and of the Old Testament. In caring for a local church, especially in a time of the church's decline, the preaching of the word is vital. In 3:14-17 God's speaking is His breathing. We should be men of God with the breath of God. Our reading of the Scripture is our inhaling of God's breath. God is breathing, and we are inhaling. Then we are able to proclaim the word in season and out of season. Our preaching is our exhaling.

We should be today's Timothys, the ones charged ... to go out to speak the truth in season and out of season, anytime and anywhere. This is our heavenly breathing. Every day we should inhale God's breath, and every day we should exhale by speaking.

#### For Young Working Saints

A nervous person is faint-hearted so he can easily be irritated or worried by the small things and become tired. An optimistic person is irresponsible, so he believes his business is going well in himself even if the business is not going well actually. Because the real situation of business is not good, later a problem become big and serious. Both types of person need to be balanced and transformed by the life of the Lord.

When you believed and received the Lord, He got into your spirit and regenerated your spirit. After that, the Lord gradually spreads from your spirit into all the parts of your soul –mind, emotion, and will. This is the transformation of our soul. Imbalance of man will destroy his usefulness. A man cannot save himself. But thank to the Lord's organic salvation of life. All young working saints may appreciate how marvelous this salvation is. One gentile student who had been so talented, yet ruined his excellence because of his nervous characteristic, and became so exhausted as to suffer from depression. On the other hand, an optimistic person can become weak by being stumbled over personal relationship. This is because being naturally optimistic is different from having faith. As we can see, in order to succeed as a business person, studying in the college is not enough for us. A man essentially needs to work with God, because a life of a man is i) a life of a wife who needs a husband, ii) a vessel that needs God as its content, and iii) a life being grafted in the rich olive tree and living together with the divine life of the rich tree.

As a business person, you should realize that transformation of your soul can improve your work performance remarkably. For this purpose, you need to be gradually transformed day by day. You should inhale the fresh breath of the Lord by pray-reading the word every day, and exhale the breath by speaking the word in preaching gospel or in the church meetings. Then all parts of your soul will be renewed gradually.

2Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed in to the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Experience ③: Make a joyful noise at the church meetings

1 Corinthians 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

Psalms 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to Jehovah; Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Ezekiel 37:8 And I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh came back, and skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

Sometimes others complain that our meetings are too noisy. My answer is that if all were dry bones, everything would be quiet. There would be neither noise nor voice, only quietness. All the bones in the valley in Ezekiel 37 were quiet and motionless. But when Ezekiel came and prophesied, there was a noise and a rattling, and all the bones came together. I cannot explain why this happened. We do know, however, that when we come together in the meetings and make a joyful noise, we are truly one.

After the noise, the rattling, and the coming together of the bones, something very particular happened. Sinews, flesh, and skin came upon the bones, covering the bones and causing their appearance to be much improved. Formerly they were only dry bones; now they were a lifeless body with the parts gathered up, joined, and connected. The body was lifeless because it had no breath.

For junior high and high school students

From your junior high and high school days, learn to prophesy for building up in the church meetings. To prophesy is to speak to the people and supply Christ, who builds, encourages, and comforts people. Such a practice will be of great help to your future presentations in the university and in the company. Nothing can strengthen your presentation and communicative skills as much as the prophesying in church meetings. As you are training how to prophesy, you will notice that you are prominent in presentation in your class.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men. 12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the building up of the church.

One sister's testimony: In the department of the company the sister is working for, the 25 to 35-year old young employees are mostly graduates of Kyoto University or the graduate school of Osaka University. In addition, there is one employee who graduated from a famous university that is of the best 10 in the world (The Tokyo University is not even in the best 30). In such a situation, the sister a graduate from the graduate school of Kobe University was working hard desperately with the Lord for about five years. As a result, the sister and the graduate from the world-famous university became the two top bests among the young employees. But about a year later, the sister got promoted and became the youngest manager in the company; however, the other one did not get promoted.

It gradually became clear that the sister was more prominent than others over the past year. The difference mainly comes from the purity of heart, humbleness, meekness and the consideration of others. It is very superficial and shallow understanding if you think that loving the Lord, loving and nourishing brothers and sisters, loving gospel friends and conveying gospel to them are not related to the performance in the company. Love people, pray for others, and speak the Word of God to man not only builds up the church, but eventually you can also improve your future performance in the company. You can be excelled by learning to prophesy from a young age. Hallelujah!

627 集会 — キリストを中心とする

1. 日々の生かつ, 集かいも, 主がちゆう心, またない容; 儀しき, 教理, 是非でなく, 集かいはただ主のため。
2. 主はひかり, みちゆえに, 照らせや, われしたがう; 主は生けるみずとかて, 飲しよくし, やしなわれる。
3. 主はいのち, われながす, 真理の主, われあかしす; めぐみの主, われたたえ, かしらの主, たかく上げん。
5. うたといのりをささげ, 霊によりて主あらかす; 霊の奉仕とまじわりで, 主をかつ用し, ひょう現す。
6. 御名でつどい, 霊で行動し, 塗りあぶらもていのる; 儀しきや思考によらず, 霊もちいて主あらかす。

863. MEETINGS-CHRIST AS THE CENTER

1. In daily walk and in our meetings too, Christ is the center, Christ is everything; 'Tis not for form nor doctrine good and true, But 'tis for Christ alone we're gathering.
2. Christ is the way and Christ the light of life, In Him we walk and by Him we are led; Christ is the living water and the food; Of Him we drink and we with Him are fed.
3. Christ is the truth, 'tis Him we testify, Christ is the life, 'tis Him we minister; Christ is the Lord, 'tis Him we magnify, Christ is the Head, and we exalt Him here.
5. By all the hymns and prayers we offer here, Christ the reality we would express; All the activities in fellowship- Christ thus in operation manifest
6. 'Tis in His Name we meet, in Spirit act, With nothing in our mind to formalize; 'Tis by His pow'r we pray, in unction praise, And with Himself in spirit exercise.

627 聚会 - 基督作中心

- 一 在日常生活 或在聚会中, 基督是中心, 基督是内容; 并非为仪式, 也非为道理, 纯是为基督, 我们相聚集。
- 二 基督是道路, 基督是亮光, 凭祂而行动, 由祂来照亮; 基督是活水, 基督是灵粮, 喝祂并吃祂, 从祂得餵养。
- 三 基督是真理, 我们所见证, 基督是生命, 我们所供应, 基督是恩主, 我们所称誉, 基督是元首, 我们所高举。
- 五 所献上一切 诗歌和祷告, 都要叫基督 藉灵得发表; 所有灵中的 交通和事奉, 都该是基督 彰显的运行。
- 六 奉祂名聚集, 随祂灵活动, 借着祂恩膏 祷告并赞颂; 不是动头脑, 仪式得成全, 乃是运用灵, 使祂得彰显。

## Scriptures :

**I . The book of Ezekiel has four main sections:**

**II . In the book of Ezekiel there are three chapters which may be considered great chapters in the Bible—chapter 1, chapter 37, and chapter 47:**

[Ezek. 1:4](#) . . . there came a storm wind from the north, a great cloud and a fire flashing incessantly; . . . and from the midst of it there was something like the sight of electrum, from the midst of the fire.

[37:9](#) . . . Prophecy to the wind; . . . Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.

[47:1](#) . . . there was water flowing out from under the threshold of the house to the east . . .

**III . Ezekiel 37 reveals how God's Spirit comes into us in order to enliven us so that we may become a corporate Body formed into an army and also built up as God's dwelling place:**

[Ezek. 36:25](#) And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean; from all your filthiness and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

[Ezek. 37:12-13](#) Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Now I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, O My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you will know that I am Jehovah, when I open your graves and bring you up out of your graves, O My people.

[John 5:25](#) Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

[Eph. 2:1-8](#) And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,

[2](#) In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

[3](#) Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest;

[4](#) But God, being a rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

[5](#) Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

[6](#) And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

[7](#) That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

[8](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God;

[Ezek. 37:4](#) Then He said to me, Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah.

[5](#) Thus says the Lord Jehovah to these bones: I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

[9-10](#) Then He said to me, Prophecy to the wind; prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe

on these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them; and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. [14](#) And I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I, Jehovah, have spoken and that I have performed it, declares Jehovah.

[1 Cor. 14:3-4](#) But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men. He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

[31](#) For you can all prophecy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

[Psa. 95:1](#) Come, let us sing for joy to Jehovah; Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**IV . The two lifeless pieces of wood symbolize the two parts of the divided nation of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel**

[Ezek. 37:16-17](#) And you, son of man, take one piece of wood, and write upon it, For Judah and for the children of Israel associated with him; then take another piece of wood, and write upon it, For Joseph, the piece of wood of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel associated with him; And bring them together, one side to the other, into one piece of wood, that they may become united in your hand.

**V . The revelation in this chapter shows that the unique way to have the Body, the church, and the house of God in the genuine oneness is the way of life:**

[John 17:17](#) Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

[Eph. 4:15-16](#) But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.