

## Think Tank 2022: Sermon - Ezekiel 37, About The Valley of Dry Bones

Charles Hall

February 11, 2022

Christian Ministries Far East-Japan Worship Center

Korean Peninsula Peace Summit -- Think Tank 2022 IAPD Breakout Session



I am excited about speaking to you and I want to come out of the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 37, where we always talk about the Valley of Dry Bones. [Ezekiel 37:1 "The hand of the Lord was upon me and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.] When we look at it, we see that God is telling Ezekiel that God has many people all around the world. When Ezekiel looked upon the bones, they were dry, so God told him to prophesy, or speak the word of the Lord to those bones and ask the question, Can they live? And the answer was "Yes, they can!" Of course, Ezekiel said, Thou knowest. So, as he began to do what God instructed, that is, to prophesy; the bones began to come together and take form. After they took form, he told them, as they were just standing there, "God said, now prophesy more."



It's a good representation of how we are now -- in full form, as God would have us to be, and God's word needs to ignite us to do that which God has said and to bring the nations back together as God has spoken of in an earlier chapter about bringing people together, sprinkling clean water upon them, digging out a stony heart, giving them a heart of flesh after which God is going to be their God.

God wants to be the God of all nations, which he is, but he wants all nations to come together. It is important for us that we accept and realize the mandate, or the assignment that we have in order to do the work that God has called us to do, especially here, in East Asia, on this peninsula, and between Korea and Japan. We know we can go back in history, the annals of the history of our countries, and we can see the wars that have taken place, and the people that have been slain because one wants to have peace and "the other" wants to have war or wants to have power, while the average person wants nothing but peace.

So, this is where we are today, and this is what we desire. My assignment, having been a military officer in the United States Navy as well as being a church pastor, a Christian pastor, is peace. We know we have the armed forces, and that the armed forces are armed because they must be ready to fight physically. But we have a greater battle in front of us. I've heard that a praying church is stronger than a full-fledged army. So, what we want to do is to bring prayer into the Korean Peninsula collectively, so that we can unify in prayer. Jesus said, "Whatever we bound on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Another way to say it is "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We believe that the heavenly kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, and it is a kingdom of peace and of love one toward another.

So, what we would like to do is to go in prayer and let our spirit self tell us, as in Jude 20, to pray in the Holy Ghost, to build our most holy faith. The Apostle Paul said it again in Ephesians chapter 6, verse 18, where he tells us, "Pray in the Holy Spirit for the perseverance of all saints."

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is important, so that we all have a commonality and understanding of the spirit of God that dwells within us. Once we ignite the spirit of God that dwells in us, we can join in prayer, join hands, spiritually, from South Korea, here in Japan, the United States of America, even in North Korea

for those that want to join us in prayer to find peace.

Let us have peace among men, so we can throw away the bombs, throw away the weapons and the purveyors of mass destruction that will cause murder and mayhem to one's countrymen. We want to love one another. We want to show the love of God between one another. That is an assignment that Mother Moon is trying to complete. She wants peace. We would like to have peace; to work together around the globe. That's why it's called "of the world," because we want to be worldwide with one mandate; that is, spreading Jesus Christ's Gospel. To learn to love like he loved us. The Bible tells us that "God so loved the world that whosoever believes in him, we shall have eternal life. Eternal life, salvation -- all of that comes through our knowledge of Christ, and as we take this knowledge and as we advance this knowledge, we realize that he said, prior to going -- giving his life for the remission of our sins -- was this commandment that I leave you is that you love one another as he so loved us. Since God had loved us as he has loved us, he sent us Jesus Christ to be our example, a perfect man. He now wants us to look at the life of Christ and promote that life of Christ within us to humankind or mankind among us.

Remember where it says in the Gospel of John in the very beginning, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God." Then it lets us know in verse 14, in John 1:14 that "the word became flesh and it dwelt among us; we beheld his glory. And for us to be able to behold the glory of God is to bring salvation to humankind. In John 17:3, he talks of how he glorifies -- this is eternal life, which lets you know the one true God in Jesus Christ in whom he has sent. So, he has sent Christ and Christ has power over the flesh. So, by the power of the Holy Spirit, once we come to the knowledge of God, through Jesus Christ, he brings us in unification, peace, reconciles us back to God to be whom we are to be in him. And we can now, since we've been imparted salvation within ourselves, we can spread the Gospel, the Good News that God is still alive and he wants us to love one another. Let us love one another; let us show peace around the world. Let it be all over. I know it has already started with me. Everywhere that I go, I try my best to tell everybody about the greatness of God, who died for the remission of our sins, who has given us peace, has given us love, has shown tender mercy and loving kindness and has done many great things in our lives. This is what we want to share with you. I want you to now pray with me that we will have peace one between another.



## **Prayer**

Father God, in the name of Jesus, we thank you for all that you have done and are doing in our lives even up until now. We know the state of the world, but we know, Lord God, that you are in control of all things. It's our desire, that you take us, Lord God, and use us to continue to promote peace among the nations. Use us to display peace within ourselves so that others will be able to see, and others will be able to understand and to know that this is all about life and life that you have given us that we should give one to another through peace and love. So, help us Lord God in this endeavor. Help us now Lord God as we bind together and pray in the Holy Ghost and let loose the power of the Holy Spirit, now Lord God, permeate us, omit sin from us now, Lord God, and as we pray words that are coming up to heaven, loose it, Lord God. Loose peace!

Loose mercy! Loose your love, Lord God upon your people who are praying, Lord God! Let us spread your word. We love you. We thank you. Into your hands we commend our lives and our spirit and we pray that you utilize us, Lord God, continually, to show your love, your peace and that you will always, God, be glorified and magnified with lives that you are allowing us to live. We thank you now.

Glory to your name! In Jesus' name, Amen, Amen and Amen. May God bless you and God keep you.