
Revival For The Valley (Carrying Us Through It)

Revive Us Again

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Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival For The Valley (Carrying Us Through It)

Lesson Text

Ezekiel 37:1–3 (KJV)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, ² 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. ³ And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

Psalms 23:1–6 (KJV)¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Introduction

The Theme the Lord gave me for 2023 is Rebuild, Revive, and Restore

To take us into this new year, we will first deal with Revive or Revival.

Revive (a verb) is defined as restore to life or consciousness, give new strength or energy, improve the position or condition of.

It is translated from the Hebrew Word *Chayah* (khaw·yaw) which means to live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, to be quickened, or be restored to life or health.

Does anybody remember back in day when we would have revivals or revival services? They would bring in a guest preacher or prophet to conduct a service with the goal or purpose of bringing revival to the congregation or community.

Revival (a noun) is defined as

- an improvement in the condition or strength of something
- an instance of something becoming active or important again
- a reawakening of religious or spiritual fervor,
- a restoration to physical, emotional, or spiritual vigor (strength), the restoration to life or consciousness.

Psalms 85: ¹ LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob (restored the fortunes). ² Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. ³ Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned *thyself* from the fierceness of thine anger. ⁴ Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. ⁵ Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? ⁶ Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

“Revive Us Again”!

In our next message, we will begin to explore God’s process to bringing life back to dry, dead, cutoff bones, but first we have to deal with where they are, which is in the valley!

The 23rd Psalm speaks to our valley experiences where David describes it as “the valley of the shadow of death”.

A valley represents a low place, which means that there are high places of mountains surrounding it. The perfect place for an ambush by the enemy.

And since the valley was filled with dry bones, clearly a lot of people had died in the valley.

Because the Lord is our shepherd, we can conclude that he is that one that led us to the valley. But should also know that he is also the one carrying us through it and delivering us out of it.

Series and Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival For The Valley (Carrying Us Through It)

“Carried To The Valley, Carried Through The Valley, and Carried Out Of The Valley”

I. Carried To The Valley

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,

As we stated earlier, a valley is a low place surrounded by hills or mountains which are perfect places to be ambushed or attacked by the enemy. So why would God carry us to the valley?

The valley experience are the dark, low, sad, and depressing periods of our lives. They are times of hurt, pain, brokenness, and heartbreak.

Ezekiel didn’t just randomly end up in this valley, he was carried by God and sat down in the middle of it.

Isn’t it interesting that when we end up in a valley, please assumed that we must have made a wrong turn, did something wrong.

And you know what, we think that about ourselves as well, “maybe I did get something wrong”.

After all the Lord is our Shepherd, who already knows about the perils of the valley, so why would he lead us there?

Psalm 23: ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, ...

We prayed that God would order our steps, and this is where we ended up at?

- Psalm 119:¹³³ Order my steps in thy word and let not any iniquity have dominion over me
- Matthew 6: ¹³ **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: ...**

This seems like malpractice. Weren't we praying that God would lead us away or around the valley of the shadow of death?

Psalms 37: ²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

So, if God is ordering our steps and leading us into the valley, why would he delight in it?

Isaiah 53: ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: ...

The answer to why God would carry us (lead us) to the valley can be found in the "B" clause of this verse.

Isaiah 53: ¹⁰ ... when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

It was because there were dead and dying bones in the valley, and Jesus was sent to save them.

Somebody has to go to the valley of death and answer the question, "Can these bones live?"

Everybody is running from the valley, they think the valley is contagious, the valley has cancer, the valley has heart disease, the valley has COVID, and I don't want to catch it!

But God needs somebody to go to the valley and speak to dry bones, prophesy to the dry bones!

II. Carried Through The Valley

Ezekiel 37: ² 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.

God didn't just take him to the valley, he made him pass through the valley.

Many times, in our evangelism, we go to the valley, but we don't stay in live in the valley.

When it gets dark, we're catching the first thing moving to get out of the valley.

But what do you do when God doesn't just send you for a day trip? He puts you in it, and because you've been there so long, it feels like he left you in it.

Some of you have perhaps heard of the poem called "Footprints in the Sand". To summarize:

- I had a dream in which I was walking along the beach with the Lord. As various scenes of his life flash before, I notice two sets of footprints in the sand.
- However, doing some of the darkest, lowest, and saddest moments of my life, I only notice one set of footprints in the sand.
- So I said to the Lord, why doing some of the worse times of my life when I need you the most, you weren't there.
- He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. During your trials, the reason you only saw one set of footprints was because I was carrying you."

Hebrews 13: ⁵ *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalms 23: ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

We don't just get to visit the valley; we have to live in it until we get through it. But we don't fear it because God is with us with a Rod and a Staff. The Rod of Correction to keep us in the path when we would stray, and the Staff of Protection, when the enemy would destroy us.

But even more importantly, God takes us through the valley to have compassion for the dry bones that are stuck in it.

Hebrews 4: ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Lamentations 3: ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed*, because his compassions fail not. ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

God needs someone to go through the valley, live in the valley, and have mercy for the dry bones trapped in the valley.

III. Carried Out Of The Valley

Ezekiel 37: ³ And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

- God carried us to the valley to prophesy to the dry bones
- God carried us through the valley to have mercy on the dry bones
- Finally, God carried us out of the valley to deliver the dry bones

We are not just in the valley to pass through it; We are being tested in valley to allow our test to become our testimony that delivers the dry bones that have given up.

Revelation 12: ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Our valley experience may have been a low place, a dark place, a depressing place, a hurtful place; but when we come out, we come out with our hands raised up in victory.

Psalms 23: ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

In 2023 we're coming out with more anointing, we're coming with more blessings, we coming out with more goodness, and we're coming out with more mercy!

1 Corint 15: ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corint 15: ⁵⁵ O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?