
Revival From The Four Winds (I Can Breathe Again)

Revive Us Again

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Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival From The Four Winds (I Can Breathe Again)

Lesson Text

Ezekiel 37:7–10 (KJV)⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. ⁸ And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may 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 exceeding great army.

Introduction

Our Theme for this year is “Rebuild, Revive, and Restore!” Rebuild what was torn down, Revive what has lost life, and Restore what was taken away.

The Lord led us to first deal with Reviving our dead situations for the start of the New Year in a series titled “Revive Us Again”

Psalm 85: ⁶ Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

And so far, we've looked at a dangerous valley filled with dry bones.

- Revival of the Valley (Carried To, Through, and Out of the Valley)
- Revival of the Dry Bones (Prophecy Vision, Life, and Strength to the Dry Bones)

Today, we want to continue to look at the revival of these bones by looking at their Resuscitation.

Ezekiel 37: ⁸ And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.

A lot of people are going through the motions of life, they look like they are alive on the outside (bones connected, flesh and skin on the outside), but on the inside there is no breath, no life.

And this is what happens to people, they get to a point where they feel like they can't breathe!

Resuscitation is the the action or process of reviving someone from unconsciousness or apparent death. It means recovery, revitalization, or resurrection.

The whole nation was collectively mortified when we saw a young man collapse on a football field. His heart went under cardiac arrest and breath left his body.

To resuscitate him, the medical professionals performed CPR, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

CPR is a lifesaving technique used in such emergencies as a heart attack or near drowning, in which someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. It consists of hard and fast chest compressions, and artificial respiration, a means of assisting or stimulating the metabolic process of the exchange of gasses in the body.

God says, these bones now look alive on the outside, but there is no life within them.

Ezekiel 37: ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

To resuscitate life to these dry bones, God says send for the four winds to breath upon them.

When the phrase “four winds” is mentioned in the Bible, it’s usually in reference to some remarkable, unusual, or devastating event. It is mentioned in terms of coming from the four corners of the earth and is represented metaphorically by many things, the most important of which are the seasons of the earth.

- The North Wind is associated with cold conditions (Isolation of Winter Season)
- The South Wind is variable in its effects; it’s tempestuous (Storms of Spring Season)
- The East Wind is the dry wind from the wilderness (Wilderness of Summer Season)
- The West Wind is described as ‘the father of rain’ (Harvest of Fall Season)

Ecclesiastes 3: ¹ To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

The next seven verses give us 28 seasons, 14 of which we would consider good (born, heal, laugh, rejoice, ...), and 14 of which we would consider bad (die, kill, weep, mourn, ...).

Although normally I would divide these into two categories, actually we should divide them into 4 (The Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall Seasons of Life).

Now the question one might ask is, when God is breathing life back into us to revive our dead bones, why not just send for the good wind, the fall season of harvest, birth, healing, laughing, and rejoicing?

Because to get to a point where you can truly breathe again, you’re going to need all the winds.

Series and Sermon: Revive Us Again: Revival From The Four Winds (I Can Breathe Again)

“Breath Again from the North Wind, South Wind, East Wind, and West Wind”

I. Breathe Again from the North Wind (Isolation of Winter Season)

Ezekiel 37: ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

The North Wind (*rûâh sâpôn*) is associated with cold conditions, the NE wind dispersing the rain is about the driving or sending of a cold isolating rain (i.e., snow). It brings the Winter Season to our lives.

Proverbs 25: ²³ The north wind driveth away rain: so *doth* an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

David speaks to the isolation of this season this wind produces.

Psalm 22: ¹My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from* the words of my roaring? ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

So why would God send for the North Wind, the cold and isolation of Winter Season?

Although most of us don't like it, the Winter Season of the North Wind has its purpose. It kills pests, insects, bacteria, and other various diseases that would harm our seeds, our harvest, and ourselves.

God sends the north wind because our lives will go through seasons of isolation when God is killing things out of our lives so that they don't kill us or our harvest.

And although we don't like it, we must survive it. How? Through Praise!

Psalm 22: ³But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

1 Samuel 30: ⁶And David was greatly distressed; ... but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Psalm 34: ¹I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ²My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad. ³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

II. Breathe Again from the South Wind (Storms of Spring Season)

Ezekiel 37: ⁹Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

The South Wind (*rûah dârôm*) is variable in its effects, tempestuous and calm weather.

Isaiah 21: ¹The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; *so* it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

Job 37: ⁹Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.

And when the south wind mixes with the north wind, it creates tempestuous, turbulent storms.

This is what happened over the holidays when that north wind came down and met the south wind, sending us in the freezing temperatures and shutting down travel and airports.

Matthew 8: ²³And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. ²⁴And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. ²⁵And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

Now we have to ask why would God send for the South Wind, the Storms of Spring Season?

Now although this season brings tempestuous and turbulent storms, it also brings renewal and rebirth. We're coming out of the long, dark, cold winter season, and we're getting renewed hope, rebirth of promises, and a reviving of anointing.

There may be storms, but after the rain comes a calm that produces rebirth, seeds of promise, and an anointing that's about to spring forth.

Matthew 8: ²⁶ And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

After the storm, your leaves of testimony start to pop out. Your hope for tomorrow turns into the anointing of today. Your vision begins to manifest itself into reality.

Milton Brunson gave us a song for when we are in our storms: "When the storm of life is raging, and the billows roll. So glad He shall hide me, Safe in His Arms."

But Israel Houghton gave us a song that comes after our storms: "No limits, No boundaries. I see increase, all around me. Stretch forth, Break forth. Release me, Enlarge my territory.

III. Breathe Again from the East Wind (Dry Wilderness of Summer Season)

Ezekiel 37: ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

The East Wind (*rûah qâdîm*) is similarly described as a dry wind from the wilderness or desert.

Job 1: ¹⁹ And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Jeremiah 13: ²⁴ Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.

Jeremiah 13:24 (NLT)²⁴ "I will scatter you like chaff that is blown away by the desert winds.

The Wilderness or desert season of life is about a season of pain, sacrifice, and longsuffering.

So why would God send the East Wind, the dry wilderness of summer season?

Because there are some things that got planted in your spring, that need to be weeded out.

In Matthew 13, Jesus teaches about a man who planted wheat in his field, but while he slept, his enemy planted tares (or weeds). His servant wanted to pull them up, but here's what Jesus said:

Matthew 13: ³⁰ **Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**

We need long suffering to suffer the pain, through the heartbreak, through humiliation of reaping something we didn't sow until God separates them during the harvest.

Isaiah 40: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

IV. Breathe Again from the West Wind (Harvest of Fall Season)

Ezekiel 37: ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

The West Wind (*rûah yām*) is described as ‘the father of rain’

Luke 12: ⁵⁴ And he said also to the people, **When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.**

This rain is not the cold rain of the North Wind that brings isolations of life. This rain is not the tempestuous and turbulent winds of the South that bring the storms of life.

Joel 2: ²³ Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*.

The former and latter rain were poured down from God and they marked the beginning and end of the harvest.

Joel 2: ²⁴ And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵ And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Hebrews 11: ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Revelation 22: ¹² **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

You didn’t die during the cold winter of the north wind, you didn’t let the storms of south wind take you out, you refused to give up during the dry season of the east wind, now it’s time for your harvest of the west wind.

Matthew 25: ²³ **His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Revival From The Four Winds (I Can Breathe Again))

Lesson Text

- Ezekiel 37:7–10

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Breathe Again from the North Wind (Isolation of Winter Season)*
- II. *Breathe Again from the South Wind (Storms of Spring Season)*
- III. *Breathe Again from the East Wind (Dry Wilderness of Summer Season)*
- IV. *Breathe Again from the West Wind (Harvest of Fall Season)*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is your favorite winter activity?
2. How do you plan your year... annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or you fly by the seat of your pants?

II. Into the Bible

1. Read John 3:1-8 and answer the following questions:
 - a) How is being born again different from being reformed?
 - b) What does being born of water and the Spirit mean to you?
 - c) What do you think Jesus meant to teach Nicodemus by his reference to the wind in verse 8?

III. Life Application

1. Share your testimony with your growth group how you overcame the effects of the North Wind, the South Wind, and the East Wind that blew or is blowing in your life. What did you learn? How are you preparing for the West Wind that is coming?
2. When the storms are blowing in your life, is your prayer a) Why me, Lord? b) When will this storm stop blowing, Lord? c) Lord, this storm must be for someone else! d) Lord, I don't deserve this because I'm faithful to you. If it is not any of these, what is your prayer? After hearing the sermon, what will your prayer be when future winds blow in your life?