

20 May 2018 – Pentecost. Readings: Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b; Acts 2:1–21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b–15.



Intro: *Very, Very, Quite Contrary* – **Ezekiel 37:2**, “And behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley.”

Cf. “*Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does your garden grow?*”

Today we note the contrast between what Ezekiel saw (Israel as a wasteland), and what Pentecost changed. **contrary** – *opposed in nature or tendency; diametrically different* (APOD).



I. VERY DRY to VERY WET!

Ezekiel 37:2, “and behold, they were very dry.” Cf. **Mt. 9:36**, “When he saw **the crowds**, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” **St. Paul’s**: “we need some more oxygen.”

Ezekiel 37:5-6, “Behold, I will cause breath to enter you... put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” **Ezekiel 37:9-10**, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God:

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.” **John 7:37-38**,

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water.**’” Cf. **John 10:10**.

Acts 2:2-4, “Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it **filled the entire house** where they were sitting. And divided **tongues as of fire** appeared to them and rested **on each one of them**. And **they were all filled** with the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 2:13**, “Others mocking said, ‘They are **filled** with new wine.’ **MSG**: “They’re **drunk** on cheap wine.”



II. VERY DISCONNECTED to VERY CONNECTED!

Genesis 11:6-9, “God scattered them from there all over the world. And they had to quit building the city. That’s how it came to be called Babel, because there God turned their language into

“babble.” From there God scattered them all over the world.”

Cf. *Digitally connected; socially disconnected.*

Ezekiel 37:7, “as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and **the bones came together**, bone to its bone.”

Acts 1:14, 2:1, 42, 44, “**All these with one accord** were devoting themselves to prayer, **together** with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers... When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were **all together** in one place... And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and **the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And **all who believed were together** and had **all things in common.**”



III. VERY HOPELESS to VERY HOPE-FULL!

Ezekiel 37:11, “Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and **our hope is lost**; we are clean cut off.’””

Cf. H.O.P.E. = Hold-On-Pain-Ends???

Acts 2:15-18, 33-35, “This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh... even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit... Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he (Jesus) has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’””

Ephesians 2:4-6, “But God, being rich in mercy... **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**”

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”



Thank You, Jesus, for Your work on the cross. I proclaim that Jesus endured the shame of bringing many sons to glory. For the joy set before Him, Jesus bore my shame that I might share His glory. Amen.



CONCLUSION: VERY WEAK to VERY POWER-FULL!

Ezekiel 37:10, “and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.” Cf. **John 16:11**, “the ruler of this world has been condemned.” **Luther**: *For lo, his doom is sure.*

Eugene Pederson, *061 Rediscovered Revelation*. “The nature of this world, from the viewpoint of the gospel, isn’t so much a battle of good against evil but a movement of death towards resurrection.”

2 Corinthians 3:18, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image **from one degree of glory to another**. For **this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit**.”

Derek Prince, *The Joy Set before Him*. “Hebrews 12:2 calls Jesus the ‘author and finisher of our faith’ (*originator and perfecter*). Let me encourage you with these words. Whatever Jesus begins, He is going to complete. If He has started something in you, He will complete it. That is His faithfulness – not our cleverness. Hebrews 12:2 continues, saying that Jesus, ‘for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.’ On the cross, Jesus endured shame, but He did not let it deter Him. For the joy that was set before Him, He did not consider shame a worthy reason to turn away from His purpose. What was ‘the joy set before Him’? The joy of bringing many sons to glory. In order to bring you and me – and millions of others like us – to glory, Jesus endured the shame of the cross.”

Declaration: *Thank You, Jesus, for Your work on the cross. I proclaim that Jesus endured the shame to bring many sons to glory. For the joy set before Him, Jesus bore my shame that I might share His glory. Amen.*

Acts 17:6, “These men who have **turned the world upside down** have come here also.”

Cf. Look out world, here I/we come!!