A Glimpse of the New Creation

God's creation had been corrupted.
Its rulers had rebelled against their Creator.
They had separated themselves from the only Source of all life, love, and goodness.
Thus death now reigned where God had created a garden of life.

But He did not abandon His creation. He began to promise a new creation. He would begin at the root of the problem: the human heart and the human spirit.

> "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;
> I will cleanse you from all your filthiness...
> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...
> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes." (Ezekiel 36:25-27, NASB)

Then He brought that promise to life with a stunning vision. Put yourself in Ezekiel's shoes and share his glimpse of the awesome creative power of the Breath of God:

> [NOTE: In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the word translated as "spirit" also means "wind" and "breath". "Wind," "breath," and "spirit" are all the same word in the original languages. Keep that in mind as you read Ezekiel's account of his vision of the dry bones. The words in caps are all from that same Hebrew word, "ruah".]

> The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the SPIRIT of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make BREATH enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put BREATH in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no BREATH in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the BREATH; prophesy, son of man, and say to IT, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come from the four WINDS, O BREATH, and breathe into these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and BREATH entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army. (Ezekiel 37:1-10, NIV)

This vision was a promise of all God would do to renew His creation.

Hymn: Ezekiel's Vision

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