

Revival – A Biblical and Historical Perspective

And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” (Ezekiel 37:3)

1. Review

- Revival differs in degree, not in kind from the normative Christian experience.
- The concept of revival originates in the Old Testament.
- Broad Principles of Revival –
 - a) Law and Covenant context, i.e., the Word of God
 - b) Deep awareness of sin (cf., 2 Kings 22:11; 2 Chronicles 34:19)
 - c) Profound reformation: repentance (Westminster Shorter Catechism 87)
 - d) Messianic hope: Christ and resurrection life.

2. Ezekiel – Prophet of Revival (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

- The Context: How then can we live?

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’” (Ezekiel 33:10)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- The Condition of the Bones (Ezekiel 37:2-3; cf. Job 42:2 and Ezekiel 1)

- The Means Employed (Ezekiel 37:4-6)

a) What is the prophet called to do?

b) Isaiah 55:10-11

- The Outcome (Ezekiel 37:7-10)

a) *But there was no breath in them.* (8)

b) *Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath ..."* (9)

c) The source of the blessings of revival (13, 14)

d) The end to which revival is directed (12-14)

3. Implications

- The Means of Grace and Revival

- What Ezekiel beholds in 'shadow,' Paul beholds in 'substance.'

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 2:4-6)