

## *Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 5*

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth focusing on the hope that we have in Christ our God and on His Word. Naomi and Ruth put their hope on God as they set their journey to go back to Bethlehem as they decided to go back to God and to do and to live His will.

*“1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.” (Ruth 2:1 KJV)* Mentioning Boaz here, was a hope for Naomi and Ruth, as we had mentioned that in the previous message. *God will always bring hope to those, who had lost their hope and will make a way that they can trust God once again.* Let us continue today through the Scriptures that strengthen our hope in God.

*F.* In the book of Ezekiel and from a vision that He showed to the prophet Ezekiel, we can learn a good lesson about Hope: *“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.” (Ezekiel 37:11 KJV)* Here in this vision of the valley of the dried bones the Lord showed Ezekiel that He can restore this valley of dried bones to a big army of Israel to go for God, and it was a prophecy about the resurrection from the dead. Certain times we cannot imagine how God will solve things and restore things but the Scriptures teach us that He can do that:

Let us read and explain about this vision and learn good lessons:

*“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,” (Ezekiel 37:1 KJV)* \* *The Spirit of God can do lot of things and even things beyond our imagination.* \* *The Spirit of God can help us to understand and explain to us the things of God.* *“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.” (Ezekiel 37:2 KJV)* Many bones they were and all of them very dry, so no hope in them and no remedy. The Israelites sinned and followed their idols and despised God's Word and went from life to death. Will they repent? Will they come back to the Lord? This message can be applicable today about many lost sons that went away from God, and from His church, like Naomi, and they are now dead. Will they repent? Will they come back? Will they revive and come to life again and once again start to serve God and be soldiers for Christ and be part of His army? I had reached hundreds of people, and they had gone away, will they come back, will they repent? Will they serve the Lord? *“3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?” (Ezekiel 37:3a KJV)* A contradiction was put forward in front of the prophet whether possible for all that to happen? Ezekiel confessed that he does not know but God knows, *“And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:3b, 4 KJV)* God gave Ezekiel His Word and asked Him to declare them to the dry bones. How many times God give us His Word but we refused to declare because we don't have faith and hope in God that He can do what He says! \* *We need to have hope on God and declare His Word and believe on what He said.* \* *Hope not only help us to serve God but hope help us to live for God.* *“5 Thus saith the*

*Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:” (Ezekiel 37:5 KJV)* God explained here and spoke to the dry bones that He will cause His breath, the Holy Spirit, to enter into them and cause them to have life. *See here, we need to speak the life of God into each and every situation that God will lead us to speak.* Sometime we refuse to tell the hard teaching and the truth to the people, but we should not neglect to do that because in telling the truth there is life. Ezekiel obeyed God and spoke the message and gave further the details how God will restore and make things come together till God will make out of those dry bones the big army. *“6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:6 KJV)* When Ezekiel obeyed and gave the message, God worked and proved His Word that He gave to His prophet. *In the same way we need to have trust and hope in what God is saying to us to do and to say and God will approve that on the life reality.* *“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.” (Ezekiel 37:7 KJV)* Once Ezekiel prophesied and preached, miracles started to take place. *Once we obey and do and speak God's Word, the Lord will work for us miracles.* *“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.” (Ezekiel 37:8 KJV)* God achieved what He said, and brought together and formed the bodies that He wanted to form, but there was no breath in them, and God instructed His prophet to prophesy, that again the Holy Spirit would come and brought life to them. *When we speak the Word of God the Lord shall form good things, even now as you hear and read the message the Lord is doing good things for you and around you.* *“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.” (Ezekiel 37:9-10 KJV)* True, what God had said happened and life came and they became exceeding great army. God will send the Holy Spirit to bring life and to bring what He wants to achieve through our service and ministry unto Him, and that we need to trust Him that He will do. *“11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.” (Ezekiel 37:11-12 KJV)* God shall open the graves and bring people from death into life. God shall bring the lost sons back from death into repentance and back to His presence to serve Him. *“13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:13-14 KJV)* And God shall put His Holy Spirit in us and we shall live with God forever.

*G.* *We wait on God and our hope is in His Word, for in Him there is mercy and redemption,* *“5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. 7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.” (Psalm 130:5, 7 KJV)*

*“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.” (Psalm 146:5 KJV)* *We will have joy when our hope based on God and on what He had said*

in His Word. “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.” (Jeremiah 17:7 KJV)

**H.** To live a righteous life doing His Word and His will, shall impart gladness to us and will give us hope in the Lord’s salvation, but the wicked is of no hope and will perish, *“The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.”* (Proverbs 10:28 KJV)

**I.** *“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”* (Psalm 147:11 KJV) The Lord is glad and has pleasure in those who fear Him and in those who had their hope in His mercy.

**J.** During trials and the time of affliction, it is good to repent and to put your hope in the Lord, waiting for His redemption and salvation, *“24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”* (Lamentations 3:24, 26 KJV)

**K.** *“And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”* (Hosea 2:15 KJV) The place that the Israelites stoned Achan and his family and burned them in dealing with their sins became a door of hope for restoration and for rejoicing to His people. When we deal with sin and put discipline on evil doers, then we are standing with God and we gain hope once again.

**L.** *“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”* (Joel 3:16 KJV) The work of the Holy Spirit today in our lives is our hope for today; for the Holy Spirit is God in our lives, and He is our hope.

**M.** *“1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”* (Romans 5:1-5 KJV) Our salvation through Jesus Christ, in His grace, make us rejoice as we put our hope on God, and that will strengthen us even in tribulation and work in us patience, and perseverance, for that hope make us not ashamed because God had pour out His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,

**N.** *“4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”* (1 Romans 15:4 KJV) Patience and comfort through the Word of God that is written in the Bible will give us hope, and that hope will fill us with peace and joy through the power of the Holy Spirit, *13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* (1 Romans 15:4, 13 KJV)

Following the example of Christ in our lives makes Christ lives in us, *“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* (Colossians 1:27 KJV) Christ is not our relatives or a kinsman as Boaz to Naomi, but He is our brother, and as we repent and come back to God, then we have hope, redemption, deliverance and restoration. In fact we are waiting for him to come and take us. *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”* (Titus 2:13 KJV) Therefore, as we are looking forward to, and have hope to meet the Lord in the air we need to sanctify ourselves, *“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”* (1 John 3:3 KJV)

**My dear and beloved:** Let us now compare between Boaz and Christ: Boaz was mighty, but Christ is God Almighty. Boaz was a relative to Naomi, but Christ is our brother. Boaz was a kinsman, but Christ is our Creator. Boaz was a rich man, but Christ all things are made through Him. Boaz means fleetness or rapidness, and was diligent in achieving the will of God, but Jesus Christ is our Savior from sins and our anointed King whom we are waiting to come and take us with Him to Heaven. Our hope in Christ is far better than the hope of Naomi on Boaz, and as the writer of Hebrews said, *“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”* (Hebrews 6:19 KJV)

**My Prayer:** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for the hope in you that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord I commit myself to the teaching that I had received from your Word in this message to do and to act upon. Lord forgive me; I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Renounce now all your sins; your worldliness, lack of faith, doing your own will, unfaithfulness, putting your trust on man and on material things, non willingness to speak the truth and imparting the message, escaping your responsibilities and non willingness to serve God.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word. Lord I am going back to you, trusting you and your Word. Lord I will do what you asked me to do. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters who committed themselves to the message that they had received from you. Lord restores them back to you and to the good plan that you had for them. Lord protects them and provides all their needs and uses them once again to serve you and reaching new people with the gospel of Jesus.

Lord I pray that you will help us as a church; Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord fulfills your vision to the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord blesses us and enlarge our territory, let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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