

# From Pining to Praising

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## **I. *How should we then live?* —To feel sin's guilt with no relief is to pine away in despair**

**Eze 33:10** Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins *be* upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? (*Feeling such guilt of sin, how can I go on?*)

**Job 9:2** I know *it is* so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?

**Job 14:4** Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? not one.

**Job 25:4** How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman?

**Psa 130:3** If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

**Gen 3:9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

**Rom 3:9** What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise ...

**Mat 19:25** ... Who then can be saved?

**Mat 19:26** ... With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

## II. The people in Ezekiel's day knew what it was to pine away in sin and death

Eze 24:15 Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 24:16 Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

Eze 24:17 Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not *thy* lips, and eat not the bread of men.

Eze 24:18 So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

Eze 24:19 And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these *things are* to us, that thou doest *so*?

Eze 24:20 Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 24:21 Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

Eze 24:22 And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover *your* lips, nor eat the bread of men.

Eze 24:23 And your tires *shall be* upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Eze 24:24 Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I *am* the Lord GOD.

## III. Those who pined away in sin felt as hopeless as a valley of dry bones

Eze 37:11 ... behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost ...

## IV. Good news for 'piners' — God gives life to dry bones — God says to you, "Live!"

Eze 37:1 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,

Eze 37:2 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.

Eze 37:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

Eze 37:4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Eze 37:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

**Eze 37:6** 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.

**Eze 37:7** 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.

**Eze 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.

**Eze 37:9** Then said he unto me, Prophecy 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.

**Eze 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.

**Eze 37:11** 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.

**Eze 37:12** 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.

**Eze 37:13** 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,

**Eze 37:14** 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.

**Eze 16:2** Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

**Eze 16:3** And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity *is* of the land of Canaan; thy father *was* an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

**Eze 16:4** ... in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple *thee*; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

**Eze 16:5** None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

**Eze 16:6** And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee *when thou wast* in thy blood, Live.

## **V. From pining to praising — God's cure for sin — The Son of God on a cross**

**Mat 1:21** ... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish ...

Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Joh 19:30 ... It is finished ...

Joh 6:68 ... Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **VI. *How should we then live?* — God's cure for death — His life-giving 'pneuma/phōnē'**

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth ... so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

## **VII. From pining to praising — The gospel of saved by grace is God's cure for pining**

2Ti 1:8 ... the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will ...

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.