



Hope is Born

LUKE 2:11

WHEN GOD INTERVENES

Ezek. 37:1-14

Ezek. 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,

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.

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

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

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

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.**

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.

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.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, 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.

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.

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.**

HOPE IS BORN IN THE PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH

I. THE ANTICIPATION FOR THE MESSIAH

II. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MESSIAH

III. THE AFFIRMATION OF THE MESSIAH

1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again **unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

Ezek. 27:11 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.

Hope is born when God Intervenes

I. THE SITUATION WAS DEADLY INTIMIDATING

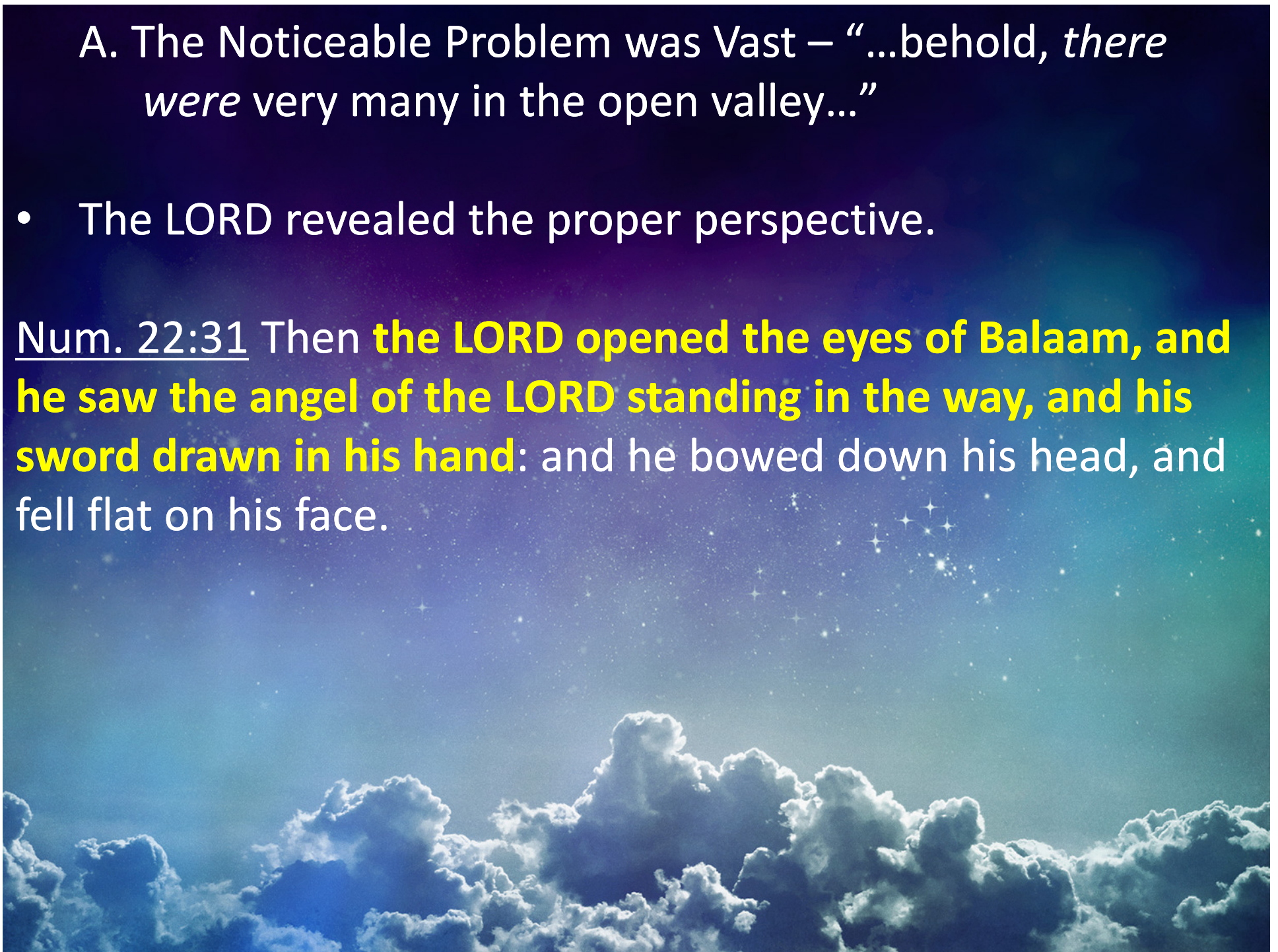
Ezek. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones,

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.**

A. The Noticeable Problem was Vast – “...behold, *there were very many in the open valley...*”

- The LORD revealed the proper perspective.

Num. 22:31 Then **the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand:** and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.



- Sometimes we fail to see what God wants us to see.

2 Kgs. 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, **LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw:** and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

- Too often we close our own eyes and simply cannot “see.”

Mt. 13:15 For this people's **heart** is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and **their eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* **heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (See Acts 28:27)

- We must rely upon the LORD to reveal what we need to “see.”

Lu. 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and **he to whom the Son will reveal him.**

23 And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, **Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:**

1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen**, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which **God hath prepared for them that love him.**

10 **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

- God reveals truth to us through His Word.

Eph. 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God is quick, and powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

B. There was No Prospect of Victory – “...and, lo, *they were* very dry.”

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on *us*, **all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.**

II. THE SOLUTION WAS DIVINE INTERVENTION

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

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

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

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.**

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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**.

A. The Enquiry

- The assessment of the challenge – “...can these bones live?”
- The answer for the Creator – “**O Lord GOD, thou knowest.**”

B. The Explanation – “...**ye shall know that I am the LORD.**”

Col. 1:18 “...that **in all things he might have the preeminence.**”



III. THE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Ezek. 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.

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.

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.**

A. When a Situation Looks Hopeless, God is Able

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on *us*, **all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.**

Acts 27:21 But after **long abstinence** Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, **Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me**, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

22 And **now I exhort you to be of good cheer**: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship.

23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, **whose I am, and whom I serve**,

24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, **God hath given thee** all them that sail with thee.

25 Wherefore, sirs, **be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.**

B. When a Situation Looks Hopeless, God IS the Answer

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Jer. 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:

24 But **let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me**, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

Conclusion

Hope is born when the flickering sight of the possible graces the impossible.

Mk. 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is impossible*, but not with God: for **with God all things are possible.**

Psa. 119:18 **Open thou mine eyes**, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Psa. 146:8 **The LORD openeth *the eyes of the blind*: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:**

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to **his purpose**.

Acts 26:18 **To open their eyes**, and to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may **receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me**.

Phil. 4:13a "I can do all things..."

Phil. 4:13b "...**through Christ** which strengtheneth me."

Titus 2:13 Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**;