

What Do You See?

An Invitation to the Valley

Chapter 10

What Do You See Now?

We have come a long way together. We began in a valley; a valley filled with dry bones, loss, grief, disappointment, shattered expectations, a valley where the evidence seemed overwhelming and the future appeared uncertain. And there, in the middle of that valley, God asked a question: “Son of man, can these bones live?” It was never merely a question about bones, it was a question about vision, perception, perspective, possibility, about how we interpret the valleys we encounter, and perhaps most importantly, about whether we are willing to see beyond our current circumstances.

Now, after walking through this journey, another question emerges:

What do you see now?

The Valley Has Changed

Or perhaps more accurately: you have changed. The valley may still exist. Some wounds may still ache, some losses may still be real. Some prayers may still feel unanswered; some relationships may still be complicated; some grief may still visit unexpectedly.

The goal of this journey was never to eliminate every difficulty, the goal was to help us see differently, because transformation does not always begin with changed circumstances, sometimes it begins with changed vision.

At the beginning of Ezekiel 37, the bones represented death, now they represent possibility.

At the beginning, the valley represented endings, now it represents beginnings.

At the beginning, the future seemed closed, now it stands open.

What changed?

The perspective.



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Seeing Through the Eyes of Hope

Hope is often misunderstood. Many people think hope means optimism, or certainty, or confidence that everything will work out exactly as planned. Genuine, authentic hope is deeper: Hope is the refusal to let present circumstances define ultimate reality.

Hope says: “This hurts, but this is not the end.”

Hope says: “I do not understand, but I remain open.”

Hope says: “I cannot yet see the outcome, but I refuse to surrender possibility.”

Hope is not naïve; hope is courageous, because hope chooses to remain open in the face of uncertainty.

Hope keeps breathing, keeps listening, keeps showing up, keeps looking.

Hope keeps trusting that The Presence, The Eternal One, may be doing more than we currently understand.

The Question Behind Every Valley

Over the years, I have sat beside many people: people facing death, grief, addiction, divorce, loneliness, regret, uncertainty, and one truth continues to emerge... *every valley eventually asks a question.*

The question is not: “Will life be difficult?” It will.

The question is not: “Will loss occur?” It will.

The question is not: “Will disappointment come?” It will.

The deeper question is: How will you see what is happening? Will you see only the bones? Or will you remain open to breath? Will you see only the loss? Or will you remain open to restoration? Will you see only the separation? Or will you remain open to reconciliation? Will you see only what is? Or will you remain open to what may yet become?

The Invitation of Presence

Throughout this book, one theme has quietly remained beneath the surface: Presence.

Not performance; not certainty, not perfection. Presence.

The God of Ezekiel, The Presence, does not shout instructions from a distance, He enters the valley. The Spirit leads Ezekiel into the valley, The Presence speaks within the valley, and breath enters the valley. Restoration happens within the valley. The Presence of God is not waiting on

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the other side of your pain, The Presence of God meets you within it, this may be one of the most important truths we ever learn.

You do not have to escape the valley to encounter The Presence.

You do not have to become whole before The Presence draws near.

You do not have to fix yourself before The Presence arrives, The Presence is already there.

The question has never been whether God is present, the question has always been whether we are.

A New Way of Seeing

When Ezekiel first entered the valley, he saw death, by the end, he saw life, not because the bones changed first, but because God's perspective changed the way he interpreted them.

This is not about denial, pretending, or ignoring reality, it is about learning to see reality through a larger lens, a lens that includes possibility, grace, healing, restoration, a lens that includes The Presence.

The world remains imperfect, people remain imperfect, you remain imperfect, and yet possibility remains. Breath remains, love remains, hope remains, The Presence remains.

The Valley Will Return

One final truth deserves honesty: you will likely encounter another valley, perhaps several.

Life is not a single journey through difficulty; life is a series of seasons. New challenges emerge, new losses will occur, disappointments will arise, and new questions will surface, but perhaps the next valley will feel different, not because it is easier, but because you now know something you did not know before:

You know valleys are not permanent;

You know dry bones are not final;

You know rattling often precedes restoration;

You know breath still comes;

You know healing takes time;

You know reconciliation remains possible;

You know The Presence remains near;

You know that God is not afraid of valleys;

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And because of that, perhaps you no longer need to be afraid either.

Reflection Questions

1. What do you see now that you could not see at the beginning of this journey?
2. How has your understanding of hope changed?
3. What lessons from your valley do you want to carry forward?
4. Where have you experienced breath returning?
5. How might your life look different if you lived from Presence rather than fear?

Final Journal Exercise

Take a few moments to answer the following:

- The valley that brought me here was _____.
- What I learned in that valley is _____.
- What surprised me most about this journey is _____.
- The breath I have received is _____.
- The purpose I am discovering is _____.
- What I see now is _____.

Final Presence Practice

Find a quiet place, take a slow breath, then another, and another. Remember the valley, the bones, the rattling, the breath, the standing, the reconciliation, The Presence, then simply sit. No agenda, no performance, no striving, just gratitude, just awareness, just Presence.

Closing Meditation

The valley was real; the bones were real; the grief was real; the exile was real; the despair was real, but none of them were final. The Presence never asked Ezekiel to deny reality, He asked him to see beyond it, to remain open, to remain attentive, to remain willing, to trust that what appeared impossible was not beyond the reach of grace. And now, the question comes to you one final time, not as a test or a challenge, but as an invitation. Look again: at your life, your wounds, your relationships, your future, at yourself. Look again, and ask: **What do I see now?**

May you see not only the bones; may you see the breath.

May you see not only the valley; may you see The Presence.

And may that Presence remind you, again and again, that no valley gets the final word, the final word belongs to Life.

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“The Presence is not asking Ezekiel to fix the bones. The Presence is asking Ezekiel to see them differently.”