

GNITN

#1376

Almond Branch Alert

End-Times Encouragement from God's Pictures

Pictures, Not Just Predictions

Welcome back, friends. If you're weary today, this one's for you. Maybe the headlines have been heavy, maybe your own life has been heavy, and maybe you've been wondering if God still speaks. He does. And very often, He speaks in pictures.

That isn't a gimmick. Scripture tells us what real prophetic ministry is for: ["But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men." \(1 Corinthians 14:3\)](#)

Edification, exhortation and comfort. It builds you up, stirs you up and calms you down.

So let's walk through five pictures God gave His prophets. Each one carries a word of hope for you.

The Almond Branch Alert

God asked Jeremiah a simple question: *what do you see?* Jeremiah said he saw the branch of an almond tree. That's it. A plain branch. And then the Lord said, ["You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." \(Jeremiah 1:11-12\)](#)

The almond is the first tree to bloom in the spring - the one that wakes up while everything else is still asleep. The Hebrew word for almond, [shaged](#), is wordplay with a word that means to watch or to be wakeful, [shaqad](#). God was saying, I'm awake, and I'm watching over My word. What word has God spoken over you, your family or your nation that still looks like winter? While you were worn out, He was wide awake. The branch is budding.

The Potter's Wheel Won't Waste You

Next, God sent Jeremiah to a potter's house. ["And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make." \(Jeremiah 18:3-4\)](#)

Look closely. The vessel was marred in the potter's hand, not outside of it. He didn't toss the clay in the trash. He put it back on the wheel. If you feel ruined by a failure, a season of compromise or a hard hit you never saw coming, hear this: the wheel is still turning, and He isn't finished with you.

Dry Bones, Deep Breath

God set Ezekiel down in a valley full of dry bones and asked the question we all dread: ["Son of man, can these bones live?" \(Ezekiel 37:3\)](#) Ezekiel didn't say yes or no. He said, *O Lord God, You know*. That's honest faith.

Then God told him to speak. ["Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.'" \(Ezekiel 37:5\)](#) Ezekiel obeyed, and the bones came together, and ["breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army." \(Ezekiel 37:10\)](#)

Notice the order. The word was spoken, then the breath came. So speak life over your dead places - your marriage, your prodigal, your calling, your hope. And notice the result. God didn't revive them just to feel better. He raised up an army.

A Cloud the Size of Your Hand

Elijah had prayed through a long drought, the kind [James 5:17](#) says lasted three and a half years. He sent his servant to look toward the sea, and the servant came back six times with nothing.

Then the seventh time, he said, *“There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” (1 Kings 18:44)*

That was enough for Elijah. A cloud the size of a hand, and he said, prepare the chariot. The first sign of God’s answer almost never looks like the answer. It looks like a small yes, an open door, a softened heart, a phone call you didn’t expect. Don’t despise the small signs. Keep looking, because seventh-time answers are real.

Rising Rivers, Rushing Restoration

Ezekiel also saw water flowing from the temple. Ankle deep, then knee deep, then waist deep, and finally *“a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim” (Ezekiel 47:5)*

God kept leading him deeper. And everywhere that river went, the salt sea was healed (*Ezekiel 47:8*). *“so everything will live wherever the river goes.” (Ezekiel 47:9)* If you feel in over your head, you might not be drowning. You might be in the river. Stop fighting the current and start swimming.

Wait Well, Watchman

One more. The prophet Habakkuk took his place on the watchtower (*Habakkuk 2:1*) and waited to hear from God. God told him to write the vision down and make it plain, and then He added this: *“Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” (Habakkuk 2:3)*

God never calls waiting wasted time. Waiting is where faith gets its muscle. What He showed you is not canceled. It’s on an appointed schedule.

Your Challenge This Week

Here’s what I want you to do. First, pick the one picture from today that hit you hardest and write it on a card where you’ll see it every day. Second, find the prayer you quietly quit praying because it was taking too long, and pray it every day for seven days, just like Elijah’s servant going back to look at the sea. Third, send one tired person a picture and a verse. Not a *“thinking of you”* text. A real word.

Because *“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

Let’s pray. Father, thank You that You’re awake, You’re watching over Your word, and You’re not finished with us. Breathe on what’s dead, deepen what feels overwhelming, and strengthen every weary heart listening right now. In Jesus’s name, amen.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.