



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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Alita: Battle Angel (2019) | Broken to Restored | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

The original manga that **Alita: Battle Angel** is based on is called (in English) Battle Angel Alita. Producer Jon Landau, however, pushed to have the movie called Alita: Battle Angel to keep James Cameron's tradition of only doing films that start with an "a" or "t." Whether that's an actual tradition or a happy coincidence that everyone has just happened to pick up, we are unsure—but it does lead to this random question:

Ask: Does anyone in this group have a random habit they feel the need to do much like the supposed habit Cameron has to produce movies that only start with "A" or "T?"

EQUIP

In the midst of this visually stunning film, we discover bits and pieces about Alita's forgotten past. Between the revelation she was at one point a mighty warrior and she had, at one time, attempted to scale up to the floating city Zalem, we discover she had quite the exciting past. That fantastic and glorious past seems to be a stark contrast to her humble state at the beginning of the film. At the front end of the film, she is quite literally broken. Her body is torn apart; her mind is all but gone; and she is a shadow of her former self.

Similarly, many people find themselves in a broken state. There are stories galore about professional sports players who either through an injury or poor choices lost everything and became broken. We hear stories of people who were experts in a particular field, but after a bad deal or a string of lousy luck found themselves tossed to the side. Then, perhaps saddest of them all, stories of couples who were happy and bright; but pride, anxiety, and doubt destroyed what God had brought together.

Ask: Those are just a few examples of people finding themselves in a broken state; have any of you found yourselves feeling broken or tossed to the side?

LEVEL UP

Starting as something strong and beautiful and suddenly becoming broken is not an uncommon theme found in the scriptures. Time after time those who claimed to love God have fallen and found themselves in a place of brokenness. The book of Ezekiel tells of such a time. During this time, much of Israel is in bondage to Babylon. They have been demoralized; they feel broken and abandoned. Granted, their current condition is their fault, but sometimes the knowledge your situation is your making stings even more.

What's interesting about God, though, is no matter how often His children abandon Him, He does not abandon them. He continually seeks to redeem and restore them. Much like Dr. Ido seeing something beautiful amidst the trash heap, God sees something beautiful amidst the trash heap of our own lives; that something is *you*. In his vision, God takes Ezekiel to a valley, and we see an interesting event take place.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Contextually the bones here represent the exiles, who, according to verse 11, have found themselves in a hopeless state. They are people who feel broken and worthless.

Ask: Why would God care about these dry, broken individuals?

The short, simple answer is because He loves them. He cares about His people and longs to see them be who He created them to be. What's interesting is the process that takes place in the midst of that restoration.

Reread verses 7-8

Here we see signs of life happening. Ezekiel reports he heard the bones rattling as they came together. He saw the muscles begin to form over the bodies; he even saw the skin begin to form. They looked like they were restored. However, something was missing. The breath of God. It isn't until God's breath entered the bodies that true life was restored.

MOD

People who find themselves in a broken situation will often attempt to fix it themselves. Sadly, many find themselves in an even worse situation after they put their own hands to it. Like the bodies in the valley, they may get to the point where they look like they are good. They have flesh and bone put back together, but there is no real life. At best they are a walking corps.

The Hebrew word used for breath is "*ruach*." This word carries a deeper meaning than just breath. It also means spirit. The implication here isn't that God simply leaned in and blew, but his very spirit is what brought life to those bodies. Simply put, we cannot truly become what God wants us to be without him. When we've hit rock bottom, like Alita, we have to put our trust in the one who is an expert at recreating and restoring. Dr. Ido put his heart and soul into rebuilding Alita because in her he saw his daughter. God is willing to put everything into rebuilding us because He sees us as who we are: His sons and daughters.

PRAY

Take up prayer requests and ask if anyone is dealing with feelings of being broken or thrown to the side. If so, be sure to spend time praying over them specifically and encourage them.

THE NEXT LEVEL

1 John 5:4 *"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. Moreover, this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith."*

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