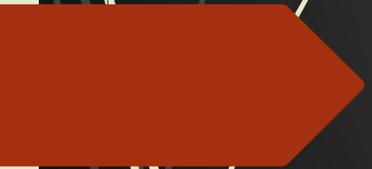


# The Book of Ezekiel



# No more

- ▶ Again overcome by emotion, Ezekiel falls on His face and pleads for the lives of the faithful remnant of the God's people, though they have already been spared
- ▶ Nevertheless, Ezekiel is not questioning God's right to do this, but rather encouraging Him to remember the promises He had made
- ▶ Which injustices are the hardest for you to watch? What does God do to ease the sting of these things?



# Split down the middle

- ▶ God mentions both the Israel and Judah as being guilty, highlighting the split between the two when they once had been a united people
- ▶ A big factor in both of their guilt was the rise of wicked kings upon both of their thrones, who led the people unapologetically into idolatry
- ▶ Which sins most often lead to a parting of ways between groups or people? What unites us with everyone else, though a union is sometimes hard to see?



# The verdict

- ▶ In poetic fashion, verses 9-10 serve as a recap by repeating the reasons for the Lord's judgment, as they had been stated in previous verses
- ▶ Fittingly, the man with the writing case also comes to announce the verdict, saying that what God had commanded had been done
- ▶ Though angels rarely visit us, how can we still know what God's Will is? What barriers are there to knowing this?



# Fading coals

- ▶ Chapter 10 begins with another return to familiar imagery including the sapphire expanse and the throne, but this time the man in linen is involved and has a different purpose
- ▶ God orders him to do a very difficult task: taking hot coals from between the wheels below the cherubim and scattering them throughout the city, perhaps indicative of God's fading presence there
- ▶ What kinds of things does fire signify or accompany in Scripture? How does this act show that things have changed between the people and God?



# Backed into a corner

- ▶ The cherubim, who often accompany God's presence, are confined to the southernmost side, shrinking as far away as possible from the image of jealousy
- ▶ In addition, only the innermost court is filled with a cloud, just like one that followed them during their days in the wilderness, suggesting the possibility of God preparing to be on the move once again
- ▶ Are there ways that we, intentionally or unintentionally, put God in a "box"? What are the ramifications of doing this?



# A show of might

- ▶ After God's presence is seemingly squeezed, God bursts forth with a show of might, revealing that He is still powerful whether the people follow Him or not
- ▶ The brightness and the loud rushing sound are unmistakable as coming from God, no matter where a person was on the temple grounds
- ▶ What are some of God's most memorable shows of might? Does each one teach us the same lesson or different ones?

