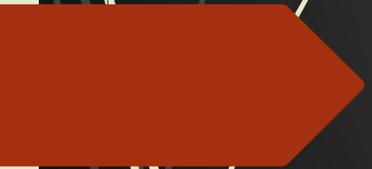


The Book of Ezekiel



On a silver platter

- ▶ Leaders of the people think they are safe sealed within their “cauldron,” but God says that He will take them out of its protection and into the open
- ▶ This leaves the despicable leaders defenseless and served up on a silver platter from which their enemies can easily dine
- ▶ Which blessings does God give to people who are not Christians? Can you think of some times when they were taken away?



Consequences

- ▶ They will be exposed to the sword, which they thought they would be able to avoid, and they will be at the mercy of the nations
- ▶ People have refused God's rules and aligned themselves with the nations instead, but as a consequence, they are no longer under God's protection either
- ▶ Though salvation is the most important thing, what are side effects of a society that moves away from God? How does it affect every day life?



Right before my eyes

- ▶ Even after everything that had happened, there is still more room for Ezekiel to be shocked and driven to his limits by the task of prophesying to the coming judgment
- ▶ As he was prophesying, Ezekiel sees Pelatiah's life end right before his very eyes, causing him to cry out in anguish and pain, even though Pelatiah might not have been a friend to him
- ▶ Do Christians sometimes become detached from suffering out of their view? Can a Christian also become too attached? What is the proper attitude watching the world suffer?



Intervention

- In a very encouraging section, God seems to take Ezekiel aside and answer His outcry in a one on one conversation, as opposed to a large booming decree
- In his sitdown with Ezekiel, God says that while even his close countrymen are among those who have said “go far from the Lord,” all hope is not lost
- What is added by God talking to Him one on one? Do you think this is how God communicates with us most often or not?

