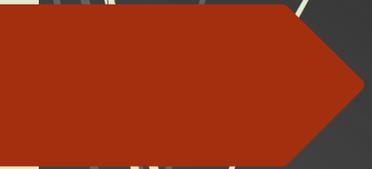


The Book of Ezekiel



Like a jackal

False prophets are also compared to jackals, wild dogs that scavenge for food even in ruined cities, because they are taking advantage of their window for people listening

Jackals are allowed to roam, because there has been no patching of the walls that protect them, both physically and spiritually

What are some things that can eat away at our spiritual defenses? What can we do to patch the walls?

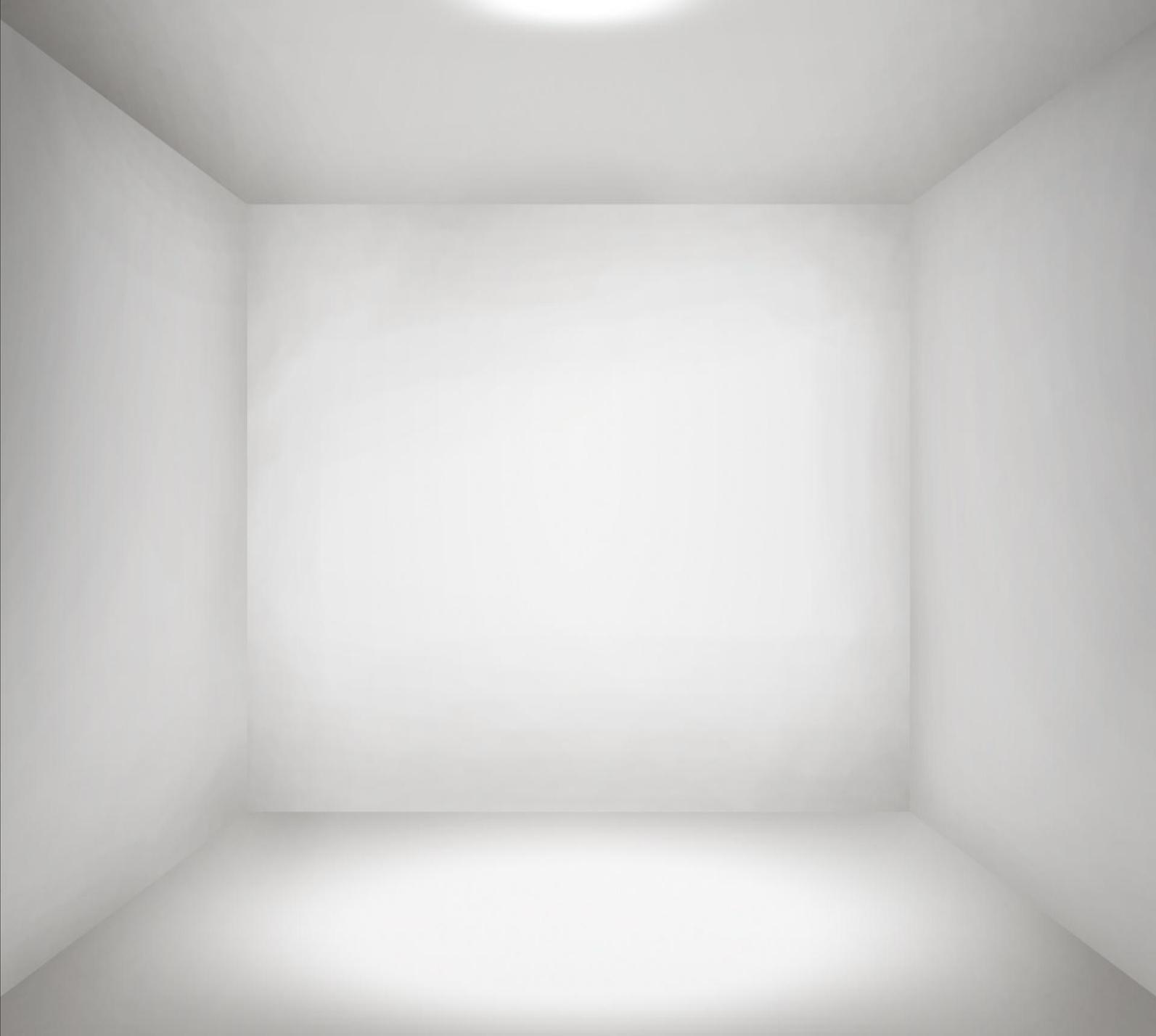


Empty words

Other cultures had many ways of supposedly revealing their god's will, but when the same things are tried with the true God, they reveal the practices as foolish

Though they might use the same signature words like "declares the Lord," that does not make their words any more true, because God must still be giving the words

How do people today make hard decisions or choose which path to take? Do many Christians mimic the world's methods?

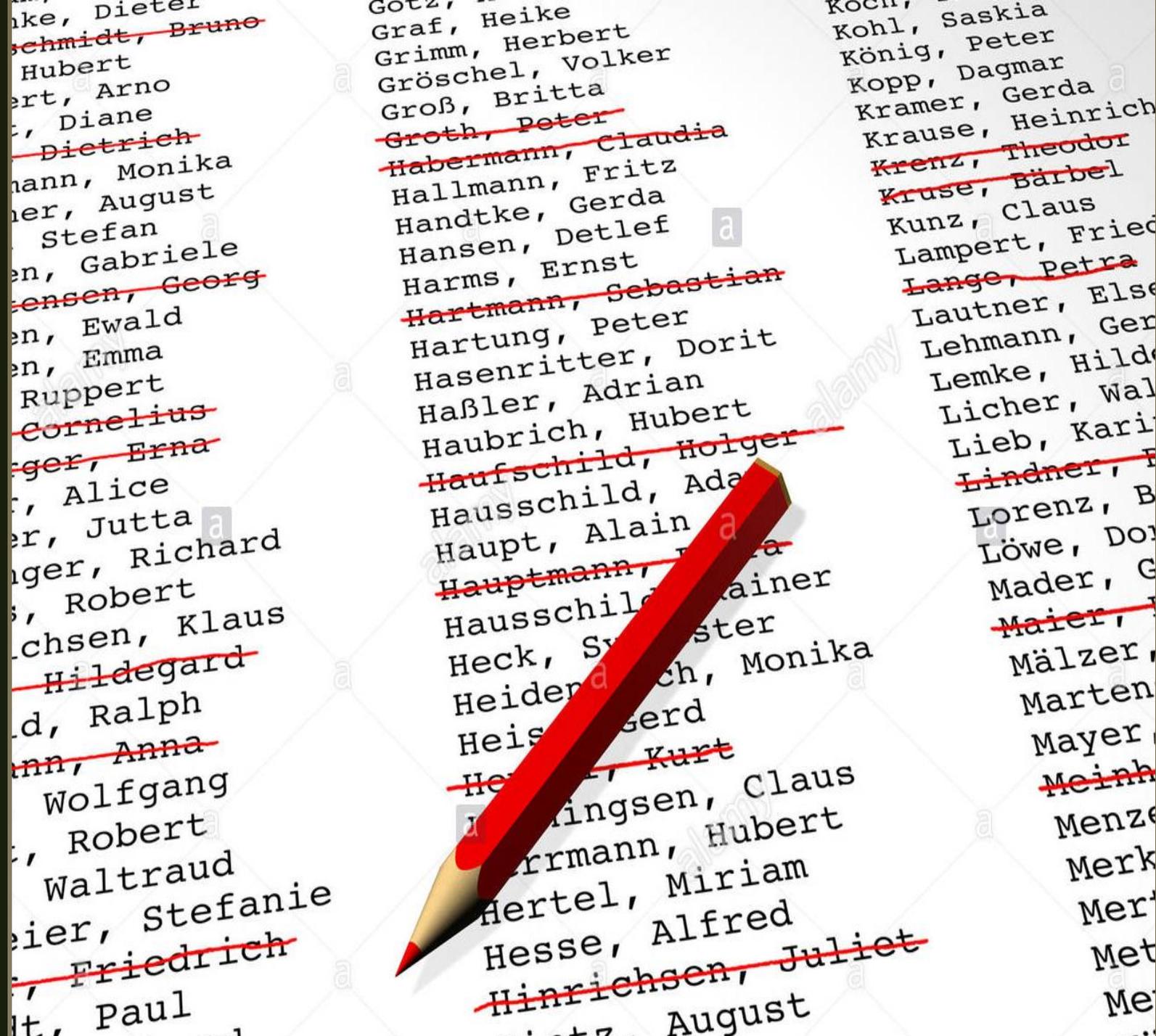


Off the record

God says that He will not remain neutral in this battle, but He will be against them, something that is terrifying to think about

The names of the deceptive prophets will be stricken from the record books and they will not be allowed to give counsel to the people anymore

What does it say to us if someone's name is erased? Does it mean the same thing to God?



Whitewashed

The false teaching they have done is like a whitewashed wall, God says, because they are trying to cover up a crumbling or faulty future outlook with vain promises

Each time the coating fades, they go back and re-apply the covering, even though they are doing nothing to improve the wall's integrity

What do people in our world attempt to whitewash? What happens as a result? What is a Christian's alternative to whitewashing?



The Test

Finally, the wall is tested beyond what it can stand by a great storm, with torrential rains, strong wind, and great hailstones

Just like the times in which God passed judgment with a storm, there was great damage and no one could escape the rubble left behind

Can you think of an event or sequence of events in a person's life can cause everything to come crashing down? What other damage can be caused in the process? What is different in a Christian's outlook when this happens?

