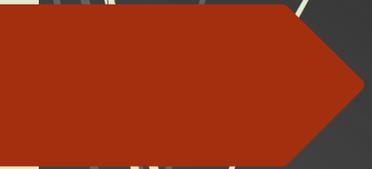


The Book of Ezekiel



The hunt for souls

Now, God tells Ezekiel to turn his attention to the women who are falsely testifying, in a little bit of a different way

Just like their male counterparts, they are saying whatever they want, but they use magic bands and veils as a part of their sorcery, hunting for people's souls

Just like the bands and veils, where do you see people wearing their own "badges" to show their allegiances? Can wearing certain kinds lead to trouble? What badges do Christians have?



Was it worth it?

For something as costly as their lying and spellcasting, they are getting very little in return: just a handful of barley or a piece of bread to use for their food

Yet, God's people are seduced by the magic of the occult and their fate is altered by what these magicians have said or done

When might you see something trivial or unimportant dragging others down? Is there anywhere in scripture that this is addressed?



Like the birds

The false prophetesses actions are compared to what was often done with birds: they were leisurely hunted and trapped for sport

However, God will not let their fun continue, because he snaps the bonds that held the people's souls and lets them fly away, free from their captors

With what might a person be restrained that keeps them from the truth? Are some restraints tighter than others? Are Christians still restrained in their faith?



Don't give up

With so much falsehood being tossed around, the true believers among the people felt as though it was time for them to give up

But none of this disheartening talk came from God and neither did the encouragement of wickedness, so God will slam the door on their reign

What do you think God means by “disheartened”? Is being disheartened an appropriate Christian response to the issues of the day? Why or why not?

