

# The Book of Ezekiel

# One by one



- ▶ In a final illustration, God says that if he poured out his judgment in the form of pestilence and the population of the land was devastated by disease, even then only the 3 righteous would be protected
- ▶ Just like war, famine, or wild beasts, pestilence does not discriminate who it effects, but God's overall point is that each person believes for themselves and faithfulness is nontransferable
- ▶ Do you think people actually find false security in latching on to another's faith? If so, where might you see something like this?

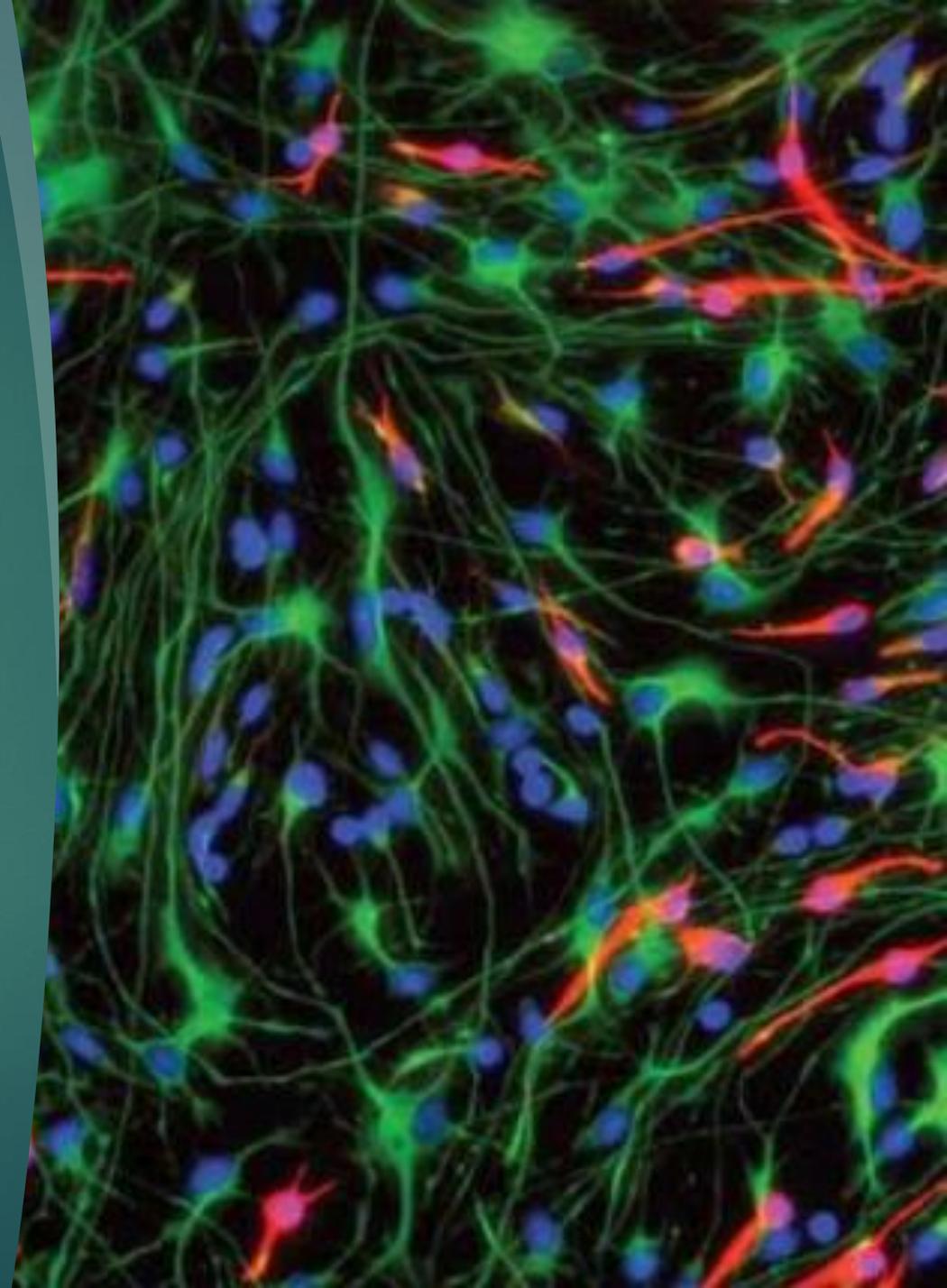
# Bittersweet Reunion

- ▶ Though these are 4 hypothetical judgments, God says that they will come true in the days ahead, but even though that is the case, there is still hope
- ▶ In a bittersweet moment, people who escaped the first wave of capture are led out of the city, but they are reunited with the captives they had been separated from, that they may eventually rebuild
- ▶ Which positive and negative emotions are often brought to the forefront when we experience a reunion? How could God use a reunion as an opportunity?



# Strange consolation

- ▶ Parents and children are able to console each other in an unexpected way, because as they compare notes, they realize that God's judgment on them was not random or undeserved
- ▶ God's judgment was a result that was in proportion to the things that they had done, but if future generations turn back to God, they will not have to fear that same result
- ▶ What do you think living in chaos does to people? Why is God's Law preferable to chaos, even when we break it?



# Useless vine

- ▶ Beginning in Chapter 15, God uses the image of a vine branch and asks a series of rhetorical questions, centering on how the wood of the vine is not the preferred choice for doing anything
- ▶ People do not use it to make anything or even hang things from it and they would do even less with it if the wood was charred already from a fire, which illustrates the current state of God's people in exile
- ▶ Which sin do you think God is trying to highlight the most here? In which situations are the brittleness and lack of integrity most obvious in human beings?

