

# The Book of Ezekiel

# To the ground

- ▶ Starting in verse 45, there is a swift change in direction, when the Lord tells Ezekiel to prophesy against the forest lands to the south, which had been full of people but no fruit
- ▶ Even a small spark can set forests ablaze, but the power of God is even greater, so that once proud nations can be humbled in an instant when God decides it is time
- ▶ How does the world make themselves like a dry forest, ready to catch on fire? Using the forest metaphor, how can a Christian prevent themselves from heading down this path?



# Gibberish

- ▶ Though there could be nothing that is more clear than God's proclamation, the people insist on making it more complicated and convoluted by inserting their own understanding
- ▶ The plainest truths can become gibberish to people who do not fear the Lord, because confusion is in our nature apart from God's order
- ▶ Which plain truths of God's Word do you most often hear distorted? How and why do you think this process of distortion happens? Which fruits of the Spirit can help us not to do this?



# Clear as mud

- ▶ Many times, when the Lord communicates in parables and illustrations, people wish that He could just be clearer by stating exactly what He means
- ▶ In response to this case, God now switches to talking about a sword and sheath, something widely known by people as symbols of war and peace
- ▶ Which issues or situations today does God have an obvious solution for? Which issues or situations do not have as clear of a solution right now?



# Melted away

- ▶ In response to the sword coming, Ezekiel is told to simulate how it will be, with groaning and expressions of grief
- ▶ Among these warnings is the statement that all hearts will melt, which shows how powerless all of them will feel, though everything once appeared to be fine
- ▶ Are there times in which you feel especially small in the presence of God? Are there times when you don't feel as small? What can either or both of those situations teach us?

