
The Book of Ezekiel



Behind the mask

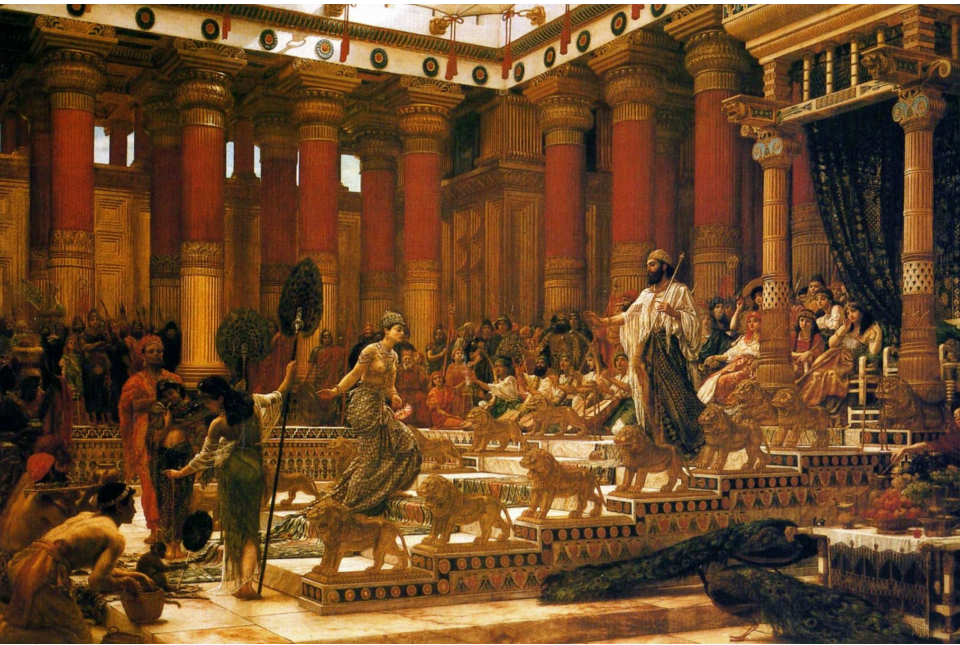


In the process of denying the sign given to Nebuchadnezzar, God brings out what is already there and highlights the guilt which makes the people worthy of being ransacked

Sometimes, people are able to hide their true nature or who they are on the inside, but God makes it so that the people are obviously tainted, even to a nation like Babylon

How do people today try to hide who they really are or what they really think? What are some indicators that something is not what it seems? What is our hope, even when we are exposed for who we truly are?

Empty throne



As a result of their guilt, God says they will be taken in hand, but in order for a people to be taken, their leader must first fall

Zedekiah is the king at the time, so he must remove his crown and turban, until the time when the Messiah comes to restore the house of David

What does a true leader look like?
What is missing when they are absent? How does Christ fill the role?

Suddenly



-The conclusion seems inevitable: that the end will come for the Judeans and/or the Ammonites, as the blade is raised above the neck, just like before an execution

-However, very suddenly, God says to put the sword away and with it, the menacing brandishing that was going on, discarding Babylon as His chosen instrument

God is always willing to forgive, even if we suddenly repent. How do you experience forgiveness as a Christian? What does it feel like? What happens?

The Bloody City



-In Chapter 22, God uses the moniker “the bloody city” for Jerusalem, because they have earned the nickname just as much as the Assyrian city of Nineveh that Jonah despised

-Nicknames come as a result of repeated impressions, based on features, personality, or conduct, which leads us to believe violence had become part of the fabric of God’s people

Sometimes, Christians have undesirable nicknames or monikers, but it can work to our advantage too. If you could choose something to be known for as a Christian, what would you choose?