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# advance in the word - Look for a love gift of god – 09/29/18

Dr. John Oswalt in his newsletter article (How Like God) helps to shed light on the context of Ezekiel. On Ezekiel’s thirtieth birthday he was expecting to enter his rightful place in the priesthood. Ezekiel 1:1 pins down, to the day, when Ezekiel became a prophet instead of a priest. “*On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.”* There is no priesthood in this defiled nation nor can Ezekiel ever be, because of his life in defiled Babylon. But wait! While all seems lost, the light of God’s revelation pierces through the darkness of Ezekiel’s life setting. Even in this unholy place God speaks and uses Ezekiel, not as a priest but as a prophet.   
As a “love gift” to Ezekiel and to the nation of exiled Jews, God uses Ezekiel right where he is. They are not forgotten! Dr. Oswalt says, *“He (God) finds a way to pull the sting out of our suffering, He finds a way to wrap His arms around us. How like God. He does not promise sunshine all our lives, but He promises His light every day.”*  
Have you or are you going through hard times? Have eyes to see and ears to hear. God is in the mist of our hardship with us (Emmanuel). Count on it. Trust Him. He will provide all that is necessary for you to overcome.