

## EZEKIEL 8:1-9:11 – “ABOMINATIONS IN THE TEMPLE; THE WICKED ARE SLAIN”

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

**THE TEMPLE IS DEFILED:** *Eze 8:1 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth [month], on the fifth [day] of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.*

*Eze 8:2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire--from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber.*

*Eze 8:3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner [court], where the seat of the image of jealousy [was], which provokes to jealousy.*

*Eze 8:4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel [was] there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.*

*Eze 8:5 Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.*

*Eze 8:6 Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations."*

*Eze 8:7 So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall.*

*Eze 8:8 Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door.*

### INTERPRETATION

We are given the second date – about 1 year, 2 months after the first date in chapter 1. About 592BC. In his house with the elders of Judah, the Lord spoke to Ezekiel again.

Ezekiel is being given another vision, that of the glory of the LORD--probably that of the pre-incarnate Christ, similar to that of chapter 1 (Ez. 1:26-28). This tremendous vision of the glory of God seems to be the basis of every vision in the Book of Ezekiel--probably the basis of the Book of Revelation. Probably a Christophany.

Not a real hand, but the form of a hand, taking Ezekiel by a lock of hair. He had shaved it off about a year earlier, but now apparently it has grown back. He seems to stay in his house by the river in Babylon but is taken in the Spirit to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the temple. Possibly the seat of the image of jealousy (carved image of Asherah) was the idol that Manasseh put in the temple (Ex. 20:4-5; Dt. 2:16,21; 2 Kgs. 21:1-7; 2 Chron. 33).

Like the previous vision in chapter 1, the glory of the God of Israel was there, even though God was being ignored while the people worshipped the idol. (Ex.33:18-23)

Ezekiel is told in this vision to look toward the north of the altar gate where is idol, this image of jealousy was in the entrance of the gate – the very first thing they saw.

He is told to look at the great abominations be committed, which rather than being excused by God, is making God to go far away from His sanctuary. We will see later the glory of the LORD actually leaving the temple. Then he is told to turn again and to see even greater abominations. (Dt. 7:1-7)

Brought to the door of the court, Ezekiel sees a hole in the wall.

He is told to dig into the wall, probably making the hole larger. He then found a door there.

### APPLICATION

Have you sensed the glory of the LORD as described here and as described in Ex. 33:18-23?

Is it possible that these kind of abominations could be occurring the church today? Turning toward the sun, toward Eastern Religion? Contemplative prayer?

## EZEKIEL 8:1-9:11 – “ABOMINATIONS IN THE TEMPLE; THE WICKED ARE SLAIN”

### OBSERVATION

*Eze 8:9 And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there."*

*Eze 8:10 So I went in and saw, and there--every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.*

*Eze 8:11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up.*

*Eze 8:12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.' "*

*Eze 8:13 And He said to me, "Turn again, [and] you will see greater abominations that they are doing."*

*Eze 8:14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.*

*Eze 8:15 Then He said to me, "Have you seen [this], O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."*

*Eze 8:16 So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, [were] about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.*

### INTERPRETATION

The wickedness extended deep into the hierarchy of Israel's religious leaders.

The walls of the temple were ugly with graffiti featuring creatures linked with Egyptian animal cults and other idols. They should have been worshipping the Creator, not the creatures.

Shaphan was a scribe or what some call comptroller of the temple in the days of Josiah. (2 Kgs. 22:3-14; 25:22; 2 Chr. 34:8, 15-16, 18,20; Jer. 26:24, 29:1-3, 36:10-14, 25; 39:14, 40:5, 9, 11) His son, Jaazaniah, most likely succeeded him and was the head of the idolaters.

The emphasis is on the elders' pagan beliefs as well as their secret behavior. They thought of God in limited, human terms, much as their pagan neighbors, not the omniscient and omnipresent one and true God!

He is told to look again. As bad as the awful images on the wall were, there are even greater abominations going on.

This greater abomination was Israel's engaging in the Babylonian worship of Tammuz or Dumuzi, beloved of Ishtar, the god of spring vegetation. With the worship of this god were connected the basest immoralities.

But look again, there is an even greater abomination going on!

These 25 men probably represented the 24 orders of priests plus the high priest. The greatest of all the abominations was the worship of the sun. This was happening right in the temple between the porch and the altar. They can sink no lower than this!(Dt. 17:2-3; Judges 2:10-15)

### APPLICATION

Let us note the depth of the sin, the pollution, in the lives of religious leaders! Note how a leader from such a Godly heritage could be leading in the abominations in the dark corners of the temple.

Do you have a persuasion that the LORD does not see us or has forsaken us? That He doesn't see your/my sin? Are there any thoughts in the "secret recesses" of my mind that are not pleasing to the LORD? God sees! God knows!!! Even a greater abomination – women worshipping Tammuz. Fertility god. Greeks- Adonis. Myth has it that he was killed by a wild boar and went to the underworld (the cause of winter!) His wife was Ishtar (Astarte)- (rebirth of nature and springtime- the source of our word "Easter"!!) Ash Wednesday; stained glass windows; candles; Halloween; Santa Claus; International Prayer Group gathering; same-sex marriages. The indignation of worshipping the sun!!

Are we more resistant to Paganistic practices today than is described in the chapter???

## EZEKIEL 8:1-9:11 – “ABOMINATIONS IN THE TEMPLE; THE WICKED ARE SLAIN”

### OBSERVATION

*Eze 8:17 And He said to me, "Have you seen [this], O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.*

*Eze 8:18 "Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."*

#### **THE WICKED ARE SLAIN!**

*Eze 9:1 Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each [with] a deadly weapon in his hand."*

*Eze 9:2 And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them [was] clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar.*

*Eze 9:3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who [had] the writer's inkhorn at his side;*

*Eze 9:4 and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."*

*Eze 9:5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.*

*Eze 9:6 "Utterly slay old [and] young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom [is] the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who [were] before the temple.*

*Eze 9:7 Then He said to them, "Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" And they went out and killed in the city.*

### INTERPRETATION

**“Is it a trivial thing”** – the same thing that God’s condemnation of Ahab. – (**1 Kings 16:31**). The putting of the branch to their nose may mean that some branch/branches which they carried in succession in honor of the idol and with which they covered their faces or from which they inhaled the branches’ odor or possibly this is an arrogant insult.

God must judge intensely due to such horrible sins. Israel has steeped over the line. They can go no lower than this. God will now judge them. Note the grace of God is absent! (**Ps. 66:18**)

HE is the God of Israel, who has been speaking since Ezekiel saw the glory of God. “those who have charge over” – This is the sense given to a Hebrew word that is frequently used of a vengeful visitation (**Is. 10:3**)

**“One man among them”** was probably one in addition to the six, making six men equipped as executioners and one representing the presence and purity of the holy God, who is worthy to mark out some for judgment and to omit others.

The bronze altar was the sacrificial altar. (**Dan. 10:5-7**)

Whether the cherub is the one on the ark of the covenant or whether it’s the one of the throne of wheels, is not clear. But we do see the glory of the Lord leaving the temple. Later it will be seen leaving Jerusalem and then from Judah.

**“Mark”** translates the Hebrew name for the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Tau), which is Ezekiel’s time looked like an “X”. Those so marked were those who “sigh and cry” over the abominations of idolatry so far mentioned. – The remnant to be marked out apart from the rebels.

This all-encompassing command is rather shocking to us, but this is in line with divine judgments from the time of the Flood to the final judgment in Revelation.

The corrupt spiritual leaders had been practicing idolatry and immorality in the temple itself. Judgment would begin with them because they had led the nation astray. (**1 Peter 4-17**.)

**“Defile the temple”** means to carry out the execution and leave dead bodies in the temple area. (**Lev. 21:1; Num. 19:11**).

### APPLICATION

**Note the silence of God! (Jer. 8:20; Is. 55:6-7)**

**The “six men” may be angels and the man clothed with linen may again be a Christophany.**

**Are you sure you have your mark? Broken because of all the evil that is going on?**

**God want the abominations to spread no further!**

**The Disease Control center now says that diseases now non-curable(126 of them now) if no cure is found, can only be controlled by being quarantined or by putting those with the disease to death!**

## EZEKIEL 8:1-9:11 – “ABOMINATIONS IN THE TEMPLE; THE WICKED ARE SLAIN”

### OBSERVATION

*Eze 9:8 So it was, that while they were killing them, I was left [alone]; and I fell on my face and cried out, and said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel in pouring out Your fury on Jerusalem?"*

*Eze 9:9 Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah [is] exceedingly great, and the land is full of bloodshed, and the city full of perversity; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'*

*Eze 9:10 "And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, [but] I will recompense their deeds on their own head."*

*Eze 9:11 Just then, the man clothed with linen, who [had] the inkhorn at his side, reported back and said, "I have done as You commanded me."*

### INTERPRETATION

Ezekiel was horrified by what he saw! “Ah” was sarcastic in 6:11; here, is a sincere gasp of pain. “The remnant” was saved from destruction by a sovereign God, is a recurring theme in the Bible (2 Kings 19:31; Ezra 9:8; Is. 1:9; 10:20-23; Amos 5:15; Rom. 9:27-29; 11:1-8.)

Three reasons given: 1. “iniquity”, or guilt of sinful offenses; 2. “bloodshed”, or violence; and 3. “perversity” or more precisely injustice. The people and especially rich rulers willfully chose to believe that God did not see or care what injustices went on.

The destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and the burning of the temple were frightful things. Why did God do it? He has said, “I will recompense their deeds on their own head.”

“I have done as You commanded me” – The reports of judgment was brought by one man appearing as a righteous accountant or possibly a Christophany!

### APPLICATION

The iniquity of the land of Israel has exceedingly great and full!!! The punishment was deserved!

Is this none other than Jesus Christ doing as He is shown to do in the Book of Revelation?

How much sin is in my life? In your life? Are we really seeking Him daily through prayer and being in the Word? Are you bowing your knees to pleasure and the things of this world? Are you snubbing God?

(Jer. 8:20; Is. 55:6-7; 1 John 5:21; Eph. 1:13-14)