

Eze 9:8-10 *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?" [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!' [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."*

Biblical Background:

- Ezekiel has been sent to the children of Israel, now in captivity in Babylon, "to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day"
- In chapter 4 the siege of Jerusalem was portrayed to Ezekiel. He was to lay on his left side for 390 days representing the years of the iniquity of the house of Israel; on his right side 40 days for the iniquity of the house of Judah.
- In chapter 5 he was told to cut off his hair and his beard, burning 1/3 with fire, cutting 1/3 with the sword and to throw a portion in the fire, demonstrating what would happen to the people of Jerusalem, when God's judgment came upon them.
- In chapter 7, the LORD gave Ezekiel an extended word on the impending judgment that was coming on Israel.
- In chapter 8, great abominations, taking place in the temple were shown to Ezekiel. Told to look through a hole in the wall of the temple court, he saw **70 elders involved with pornography**, saying the LORD does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land. Taken to the north gate, Ezekiel saw **women sitting and weeping for Tammuz**. Then in the inner court, he saw **25 men (the high priest and 24 courses of priests)** with **their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east and they were worshipping the sun** toward the east – all abominations against the LORD!
- In chapter 9, the LORD sends six men/angels into the city of Jerusalem to begin slaying the people. They were to place a mark on the forehead of the men who sigh (groan, mourn) and cry over all the abominations that are done in the city. To all the unmarked the men were dispatched to kill – old and young men, maidens and little children and women.

While this killing was going on, Ezekiel was left alone. He fell on his face and cried out and said:

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?"*

- **Ez. 9:5-11** In these verses we have, a command given to the destroyers to do execution according to their commission. They are directed to *begin at the sanctuary*, which, in the chapter before, he had seen the horrid profaning of; they must begin there because there the wickedness began which provoked God to send judgments.
- When judgements are abroad **they commonly begin at the house of God**, *1Pe_4:17; Amo_3:2*. God's temple is a sanctuary, a refuge and protection for penitent sinners, but not for any that *go on still in their trespasses*; neither the sacredness of the place nor the eminency of their place in it will be their security.
- Wherever **sin has gone before judgement will follow after**; and, though *judgement begins at the house of God*, yet it shall not end there. The holy city shall be no more a protection to the wicked people than the holy house was.
- **They began at the elders, the ancient men that were before the house, and slew them first**, either those 70 ancients who worshipped idols (*Eze_8:12*) or those 25 who *worshipped the sun between the porch and the altar*.
- **They proceeded to the common people: They went forth and slew in the city**; for, when the decree has gone forth, there shall be no delay; if God begin, he will make an end.
- **Here is the prophet's intercession for a mitigation of the judgement, and a reprieve for some** (*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,"**
- How sensitive Ezekiel was of God's mercy to him, in that he was spared when so many around him were cut off. He speaks as one that narrowly escaped the destruction, **attributing it only to God's goodness**, not his.
- **The best saints must acknowledge their gratefulness to His sparing mercy that they are not consumed**.
- Notice how he improved this mercy; he looked upon it that *therefore* he was left **that he might stand in the gap** to turn away the wrath of God. *Hab. 3:2b "In wrath remember mercy"*
- **We must look upon it that for this reason we are spared, that we may do good in our places, may pray!**
- **Ezekiel did not triumph in the slaughter He made, but his flesh trembled for the fear of God.**
- **The prophet humbly discusses with God: "'Ah, Lord GOD! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel in pouring out Your fury on Jerusalem?'"** and shall there be none left but the few that are marked? Shall the Israel of God be destroyed, utterly destroyed? Will You so *pour out Your fury upon Jerusalem* as by the total destruction of

the city to ruin the whole country too? Surely You will not!" Though we acknowledge that *God is righteous*, yet **we may plead with Him concerning His judgements.**

God's Denial of Ezekiel's Request:

Eze 9:9-10 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!' [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."

- **Nothing could be said in extenuation of this sin.** God was willing to show mercy as the prophet could desire; He always is so. But **here the case will permit it**; it is such that mercy cannot be granted without wrong to justice; and **it is not fitting that one attribute of God should be glorified at the expense of another.** Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that he should destroy? By no means. But the truth is their sin was so flagrant that the reprieve of the sinners would be a mockery at the sin: *"The iniquity of the house of Judah and Israel is exceedingly great; there is no suffering them to go on at this rate. No; nothing can be offered by an advocate in excuse of the crimes.*
- **Nothing can be done to mitigate the sentence:** "Whatever you think of it, *as for me, my eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity; I have borne with them as long as it was fit that such impudent sinners should be borne with; and therefore now I will recompense their deeds on their head.*" **Sinners sink and perish under the weight of their own sins; it is their own way, which they deliberately chose rather than the way of God, and which they obstinately persisted in, in contempt of the word of God, that is recompensed on them. Great iniquities justify God in great severities;** No, He is ready to justify Himself, for He will be *clear when He judges.*
- **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."** Here is a return made of the writ of protection which was issued out for the securing of those that mourned in Zion: *The man clothed with linen reported the matter,* gave an account of what he had done in pursuance of his commission; **he had found out all** that mourned and **had marked them all** in the forehead. *Lord, I have done as thou hast commanded me.*
- **How faithful Christ is to the trust reposed in Him. Is He commanded to secure eternal life to the chosen remnant? He has done as was commanded Him. Of all that You have given me I have lost none. Cf. Joh 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**

SUMMARY:

- **God is good all the time. He also is righteous and just! Unrepentant sin will not be forgotten, but will be judged!**
- **His judgment is most certainly coming on a Christ rejecting world!**
- **How then are we to live? Timothy was told "Take heed to your ministry"**
- **Peter said, "...Be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."**
- **Note God's unending mercy and grace! – "none of them is lost!" Oh, how faithful He is! Rejoice!**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

SAT MORN PRAYER GUIDELINES:

We all want to receive **instruction from the teaching in Biblical prayers** and **for the prayer time be effective**, being led by the **Holy Spirit.** To that end:

- Please be on time at 6:30am to receive the blessings of the weekly prayers in the Bible.
- If you are late, **simply agree in prayer and refrain from praying** in group prayer and **wait until the small group** prayer time.
- Those who pray aloud during the prayer meeting portion, **please keep the prayers short (2-3 minutes)** praying as led by the Holy Spirit. There is only about a 30 minute period for 15 or so to pray.
- **Intercessory prayer** (church, country, leaders) **during group time; personal prayer** during small group time.
- **Welcome times of silence** during the group prayer time as we wait on the Holy Spirit.