

Part 2, Week Three - The Second Vision – the Sixth Year, on the Fifth Day of the Sixth Month – Sept. 17, 592.B.C. (Possibly the time of Yom Kippur) – Ezekiel 8-9

Days 1-2 – Transported Back to Jerusalem to Observe the Wickedness of the People – Ezekiel 8

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 8:

all references to God as before

all references to Israel or “house of Israel,” or “the house of Judah,” as before

all references to Ezekiel as before, including “Son of man”

all references to the “stretching out of God’s hand”

The phrase: “the hand of the Lord GOD fell on me there”

“God,” “Lord GOD, “I am” with the same marking

“looked” or “sight” or “eye(s),” “see” with the same marking

“appearance” as before

all references to “abominations,” “idols,” “idols of jealousy” as before

the phrase: “but yet you will see still greater abominations”

“My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare,” “I shall not listen to them,” as one marking the “Spirit”

“vision(s)” as before

“Jerusalem” as before

any cardinal points on the map as “N,” “S,” etc.

“glory” as before

any word that has something to do with the temple, i.e., “temple,” “inner court,” “altar gate,” as the same marking

all numberings with actual numbers, i.e. “seventy” with “70,” or “twenty-five” with “25”

Mark all references to the word “therefore” in some unique way in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet.

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets.

What was the time marker for when “the hand of the Lord GOD fell on” Ezekiel?

How many months was this vision after the initial vision Ezekiel had beginning in chapter 1?

Where was Ezekiel when “the hand of the Lord GOD fell on him? With whom was he sitting?

Did Ezekiel actually travel to Jerusalem for this vision? If not, where was he physically while he was looking into the vision? See Ezek. 8:3.

Why did the elders come to Ezekiel's house? Why didn't Ezekiel go to the elders' houses and speak with them there? Does this give you another view of the "binding up" of Ezekiel in his own house?

What did the elders come to ask of Ezekiel? Are we specifically told?

How did Ezekiel answer the elders' question(s)? Hint: Ezekiel did this after seeing the vision. See Ezek. 11:24-25.

In Ezekiel's second vision, was God a man or did He have the "form" of a man? Was this description of God in 8:2-3 the same as the description of God in the first vision? If different, how was the description different?

In this second vision, did God have a human hand? If not, what did He have? See Ezek. 8:3.

List what the son of man saw in association with the first "yet you will see still greater abominations," in verse 8:6.

What do you suppose this "idol of jealousy was?"

Read about an idol that was placed in the temple in the reign of Manasseh, destroyed during Josiah's reign and then reappeared after Josiah died in battle. See 2 Kings 21 and 23, 2 Chronicles 33. Could this have been the "idol of jealousy?"

Which commandment(s) did this "idol of jealousy" violate? See Exodus 20.

Why would God be provoked to jealousy over this idol that was in His Temple?

Would God stay in His temple if another “god” was there? Why or why not? See 8:6. Also, cross-reference Isaiah 42:8.

List what the son of man saw in association with the second “yet you will see still greater abominations,” in verse 8:13.

How many elders of the house of Israel were standing in front of these idols?

What was with the 70 elders and the incense pans and the burning of incense? Were these elders the Sanhedrin of Jesus’ day? Or were these elders leading men of Judah who were still present in the land after the first two deportations? Didn’t the Babylonians take the cream of the crop (the leading men of Judah) out of the land with the first deportation?

God does not waste words in His Word. Why would he have pointed out Jaazaniah, son of Shaphan? Who was Jaazaniah and who was Shaphan? What is their significance here?

Why do you think Ezekiel was surprised to see Jaazaniah in the temple paying homage to his idol(s)?

Why did each man have a censer in his hand? What was the purpose of incense in the worship experience?

What were these men seeking to justify by saying, “the LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land”? Don’t you find this ironic that they thought the LORD could not see them, when Ezekiel in Babylon could see them in a vision that God provided?

Do you think that the elders’ idolatry was somehow passed down to the common people? Were they the ones who were responsible for the downturn of the nation into idolatry?

List what the son of man saw in association with the third “yet you will see still greater abominations,” in verse 8:14

Who is Tammuz and why are the women weeping for Tammuz? Look in the margin of your Bible for notes or look up “Tammuz” in a Bible dictionary.

This is what Chuck Missler writes about Tammuz in his commentary on Ezekiel: “According to Babylonian lore, Tammuz was the miraculously born son of Semiramis, the queen wife of Nimrod the hunter. Nimrod in Genesis was the first world dictator and, according to Babylonian folklore, at least, his wife had supernaturally born a son by the name of Tammuz, who was associated with the sun god.” Another place in his commentary, Missler writes, “At about the time of winter solstice, the Babylonians celebrated the death and resurrection of Tammuz by burning a tree, taking a log of it, and the next day replacing the burnt log with a fresh tree. The Yule log apparently had its origin in the celebration of the supernatural restoration of Tammuz.”

What is the last and greatest of the abominations that Ezekiel saw in chapter 8?

Describe the twenty-five men in the last and greatest of the abominations:

Why were the men bowing down, facing the east? In what direction was the entrance to the temple?

Where were these 25 men performing their worship? If these 25 men were priests, what should they have been doing in this specific spot where they were worshipping their idols?

What three things will God not do to the house of Judah? See 8:18.

Why did the house of Israel, represented by these different men and women, do all that they were doing in the temple?

How could God allow them to do such things in His sanctuary?

List all the words that describe the different idols in chapter 8, i.e., “every form of creeping things.”

Now that you've looked at chapter 8 somewhat in depth, go back and trace Ezekiel's steps in the vision, i.e., Ezekiel was lifted up by the Spirit between earth and heaven and was brought to Jerusalem to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court of the temple. Next he was instructed to raise his eyes toward the north so as to see the idol of jealousy at the entrance of the temple or the altar gate. Then the Spirit took him to the entrance of the court and to the hole in the wall. You continue and fill in the rest of the steps below:

One last question for this chapter and we will go on to the next chapter: why do you think God gave up on the Israelites this time? Why didn't He go for another round with them like He had so many times before? What was different about this time than at any other time?

In this chapter, God has given Ezekiel a true picture of the wickedness for which the people have embraced. God brings Ezekiel to Jerusalem, in a vision, and shows Him four different sets of people and their sins against Him. Ezekiel is shown the idol of jealousy at the entrance to the altar in the temple, the elders worshiping all kinds of false gods in God's house, the women weeping for a false god named Tammuz, and the priests worshiping the rising sun in the east from inside God's house.

Days 3-4 – Ezekiel Still in Jerusalem to Observe the Slaughter of the People– Ezekiel 9

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 9:

all references to God as before

all references to Israel or "house of Israel," or "house of Judah" as before

all numberings with actual numbers, i.e. "six men" with "6," and all synonyms and pronouns, i.e., "executioners of the city," or "each"

"a certain man clothed in linen;" I marked mine with a 1+, so that when I came across "them," meaning the six executioners and the man in linen, I could add the two together, i.e., "1+6."

"the God of Israel" with "El Elohe Yisrael"

"bronze altar" as you marked words having to do with the Temple before

"remnant"

"iniquity," as before

“wrath”

“slain,” as before

“My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare,” “I shall not listen to them,” as before using one marking

“Jerusalem” and “the city,” as before

“glory” as before

“a mark on the foreheads”

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets.

Mark all references to the word “therefore” in some unique way in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet

Make a list of the following on your double-spaced worksheets and also in the spaces below:

1. Make a list describing the 6 executioners:

What did each executioner have in his hand?

Look up the word used for “executioner” in a Bible concordance? The number for this word, “executioners” in Ezekiel 9:1 is 6486? Write what you discover about this word and its use in other Scriptural references:

The Hebrew word for “executioners” is “pequddah.” Do you get the idea from the use of the word in other Scripture that these executioners are like overseers or guards, maybe keepers for the city? Do you think these executioners were angelic beings now given the task of destroying the people in the city where they once were to protect those living in the city? Those beings, in the end times in Revelation, who were given the task to pour out wrath on the peoples of the earth (as seen in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments-see Revelation starting in chapter 6) were angelic.

From which direction did these executioners come into the inner court?

Which four groups of people (from chapter 8) did these executioners have to pass by in order to enter the inner court?

Who came with the six executioners?

This man of mercy, the man clothed in linen, is intermixed with the angels of destruction. Notice there are six executioners. Six is the number of Man. However, there are seven total beings; seven is the number of God. God has mixed His mercy amongst His judgment. Aren't we glad for that?

2. Make a list describing the man clothed in linen:

Why do you think that the man clothed in linen had an inkhorn at his side?

What do you know about linen clothing? See Exodus 25:1-4, 39:27-29, Leviticus 6:10, 16:4, Proverbs 31:22, Daniel 10:5, Revelation 15:6,19:8,14. What thoughts are brought to your mind about the linen clothes on the man with the inkhorn at his side? Was he a priest? Was he a prophet? Do you think that he might have been a picture of the mediator between God and Man, the God Man, Jesus Christ?

Where did God's glory go when the six executioners and the man in linen came into the temple? See Ezekiel 9:3-7.

What did God tell the man dressed in linen to do?

3. Please describe the men who will not receive "the mark:

Do you think God knew ahead of time those who were His and those who were not? Did He know those who lamented and grieved over their sin and the idolatry of their nation and those who played the harlot with their many gods?

Did God know who had been faithful?

What did He have planned for those who remained faithful to Him? Please read Revelation 7:3ff. When will there be another "marking" in time still future to us (as in the marking of the man in linen)? When had this kind of marking occurred in the past history of the Israelites? Think back to the Passover in Egypt.

Who were the executioners to follow throughout the city? What were the executioners to do only after the man in linen had passed by those who would not receive “the mark?”

How were the executioners to view and kill those without “the mark?”

What did God specifically tell the six executioners so that they would not be driven by their compassion?

What distinction were the executioners to make concerning those without “the mark?”

How could a loving God give the command to the six executioners to utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children and women?

Where were the executioners to begin the slaying of those without “the mark?” With whom does judgment begin in the New Testament? See 1 Peter 4:17. What is the progression of God’s wrath here, i.e., the 70 elders, the 25 priests, the commoners?

This is a repeat question, but is appropriate here: where did the idolatry begin and with whom? So, where should the judgment begin?

With whom did the executioners begin the slaying? See where this action was written down for us in history in 2 Chronicles 36:17-19.

What will happen to the temple when the executioners kill the idolaters within its walls? See Ezekiel 9:7.

Do you think the temple was defiled before the executioners killed the idolaters within its walls? If so, how was it defiled before?

With what are the executioners to fill the courts? See Ezekiel 9:7.

What did Ezekiel fear when He saw himself alone? For whom did he cry out to God?

Were these who were killed, some of those who would be of the “one-third,” who would be slain by the sword in Jerusalem?” Was this just the start of the slaying of the one-third?

Why is the city, Jerusalem, specifically called for judgment?

Please turn to Revelation 11:8-13 and let’s take a look at another time in the future when Jerusalem will be ripe for judgment again. What is this great city which is mystically called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified?

Who could the executioners not slay?

4. Please describe those who will receive “the mark:”

What does God promise to His Remnant in Jeremiah 15:11?

What did the man in linen report to God in Ezekiel 9:11? Basically, what was the man in linen’s judgment based on for each man that he marked or didn’t mark?

To sum up chapter 9, we see the following:

- preparation of the executioners and the man in linen to give out wrath or mercy
- the Shekinah Glory’s movement away from His dwelling place with Man
- the commissioning of the man in linen to mark the Remnant for preservation
- the command to the six angels to execute the idolaters
- the intercession of Ezekiel on the part of the Remnant
- the reporting of the man in linen’s actions to God

Next week, we will look at God’s departure from His temple, away from the people with whom He desired to dwell.

Day 5 – Personal Application

Do you think that God can permit that which is contrary to His nature in His universe? What righteousness or perfection can you offer God so that He will/can save you? What do you have to present to Him? Can He accept anything less than His righteousness or His perfection? What about our nation as a whole in regards to these questions? What can our nation offer to God so that He will spare us from His wrath?

Why did the Jews, at this time, turn to worshipping idols? What or Whom had they rejected and by their very rejection, set themselves up for idolatry? Please read Romans 1. Has our nation, as a whole, turned from God and turned to worshipping idols? How have we set ourselves up for idolatrous worship?

How about you? Have you set yourself up for idol worship by rejecting God in some area of your life? What about something that you are withholding from Him and keeping for yourself? What are we, as a nation, keeping for ourselves and withholding from God?

How do you think God will judge your idols? How did God judge the Egyptian idols that had captured the hearts of those Israelites who were held captive in Egypt for 400 plus years? How will God judge our nation's idols? Do you see this judgment of God being presently active on our nation?

When you don't actively pursue your relationship with God, do you sink down to the same level as those around you who are captivated by the world? As a nation, we no longer actively pursue our relationship with God. We have taken Him out of our schools, our politics, our everyday lives. Do you think we have stooped to the same level as all the other nations? We once were a nation based on Judeo-Christian principles. Where are we now?

Can you be a witness for the living and true God when you succumb to worldliness? Isn't worldliness (materialism) a kind of god? Do the other nations today, see us as succumbing to worldliness or do they see us as leading the nations in "worldliness?"

Do you ever dismiss God like the Jews did in Ezekiel 8:11-12, when they said, "the LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land?"

Do you really believe that God is omniscient and omnipresent? What do you do when no one else (human) is looking? Is there anything that you do in “secret?” God is seeing all that is going on. Is God pleased with what is going on in your mind and your body?

Are you responsible to God for your actions? Are you responsible to God for your thoughts?

Today, what or Who is God’s temple?

For what do you thumb your nose at God? I think this may be the meaning “For behold, they are putting the twig to their nose, “ in Ezekiel 8:18.

What does it mean to you, after studying Ezekiel 8-9, that in today’s dispensation of time, God will not leave you for your worship of another? What will be the result today if you resort to idolatry? I’m using the word idolatry to define any object/relationship that you desire more than your relationship with God.

Has God been longsuffering and patient with you?

In Revelation, there is another “mark” mentioned. What is this “mark” and will we have this mark or will we even still be here on this earth at that time when this mark is given out?

Is God a High Tower, a Refuge to go to, if you are continuing in your sin?

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Chapter 8

Chapter Theme _____

8:1 And it came about in the sixth year, on the fifth day of the sixth month, as I was sitting in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell on me there.

8:2 Then I looked, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of a man; from His loins and downward there was the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal.

8:3 And He stretched out the form of a hand and caught me by a lock of my head; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the idol of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy, was located.

8:4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the appearance which I saw in the plain.

8:5 Then He said to me, “Son of man, raise your eyes, now, toward the north.” So I raised my eyes toward the north, and behold, to the north of the altar gate was this idol of jealousy at the entrance.

8:6 And He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations which the house of Israel are committing here, that I should be far from My sanctuary? But yet you will see still greater abominations.”

8:7 Then He brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, a hole in the wall.

8:8 And He said to me, “Son of man, now dig through the wall.” So I dug through the wall, and behold, an entrance.

8: 9 And He said to me, “Go in and see the wicked abominations that they are committing here.”

8:10 So I entered and looked, and behold, every form of creeping things and beasts and detestable things, with all the idols of the house of Israel, were carved on the wall all around.

8:11 And standing in front of them were seventy elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them, each man with his censer in his hand, and the fragrance of the cloud of incense rising.

8:12 Then He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are committing in the dark, each man in the room of his carved images? For they say, ‘The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.’”

8:13 And He said to me, “Yet you will see still greater abominations which they are committing.”

8:14 Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and behold, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

8:15 And He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? Yet you will see still greater abominations than these."

8:16 Then He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house. And behold, at the entrance to the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east; and they were prostrating themselves eastward toward the sun.

8:17 And He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they have committed here, that they have filled the land with violence and provoked Me repeatedly? For behold, they are putting the twig to their nose.

8:18 "Therefore, I indeed shall deal in wrath. My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet I shall not listen to them."

Chapter 9

Chapter Theme _____

9:1 Then He cried out in my hearing with a loud voice saying, "Draw near, O executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."

9:2 And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate which faces north, each with his shattering weapon in his hand; and among them was a certain man clothed in linen with a writing case at his loins. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

9:3 Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case.

9:4 And the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst."

9:5 But to the others He said in my hearing, "Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare.

9:6 "Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary." So they started with the elders who were before the temple.

9:7 And He said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" Thus they went out and struck down the people in the city.

9:8 Then it came about as they were striking and I alone was left, that I fell on my face and cried out saying, “Alas, Lord GOD! Art Thou destroying the whole remnant of Israel by pouring out Thy wrath on Jerusalem?”

9:9 Then He said to me, “The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood, and the city is full of perversion; for they say, ‘The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!’

9: 10 “But as for Me, My eye will have no pity nor shall I spare, but I shall bring their conduct upon their heads.”

9:11 Then behold, the man clothed in linen at whose loins was the writing case reported, saying, “I have done just as Thou hast commanded me.”

Ezekiel's Second Vision - Slaying of the Idolaters/ Sparing of the Faithful Remnant-Ezekiel 9

The 6 Executioners	The Man Clothed in Linen	The Men who will not Receive the Mark	The Remnant- the Men who will Receive the Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -executioners of the city -six in number/ number of Man -each with his destroying (shattering) weapon in his hand -came from the direction of the upper gate which faces N -among them was the man in linen with the writing case at his loins -they passed the four groups of idolaters in chapter 8 -they went in and stood by the bronze altar along w/ the man clothed in linen -they were to slay all those who did not have the mark -they were to spare no one, slay old men, young men, maidens, children, women -they were to start at the sanctuary with the 70 elders & then out from the temple -could only slay after the man clothed in linen marked the faithful remnant with ink from his writing horn -they were not to have pity nor spare those who did not receive the mark -they were to defile the temple with the blood and bodies of the men who worshipped the abominations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the man of mercy -note 6+1 = 7, the number of God -a certain man clothed in linen coming with the six executioners -he had a writing case at his loins -he went into the temple and stood at the bronze altar with the six executioners -he was probably a scribe or he may have been the pre-incarnate Christ -he was to go through Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sighed and groaned over all the abominations which were being committed in the city's midst -when the man in linen came into the temple at the bronze altar, the S.G. went up from the cherub on which it had been to the threshold of the temple -had to mark the righteous before the executioners could slay the unrighteous s.t. they would know who to slay and who they were not to slay -had to make his report to God when finishing his task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -they do not get the mark -they do not sigh or groan over all the abominations which are being committed in the city -the leaders of the people -the 25 scribes/priests -the 70 elders -the women weeping for Tammuz -God was watching their actions all of this time they thought He could not see them -played the harlot with the many gods of the Egyptians and probably other nations' gods as well -they were to be slain without partiality, including old men, young men, maidens, women, children -these men defiled the temple before the executions were to defile it, by their idolatry and blood sacrifices to other gods -were some of the 1/3 that were to be slain in Jerusalem -God says of this house of Judah: the iniquity is very, very great and the land is filled with the blood and the city is full of perversion 9:9 -judged by God on their character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -obviously received the mark from the man in linen; received mercy for sighing or growing over all the abominations which were being committed in the city -Ezekiel feared that God would destroy the whole Remnant of Israel, even those who had been faithful -these could not be slain -the slaying of the wicked could not be commenced until these righteous ones were marked -Jeremiah 15:11- surely God will set them free for purposes of good, surely He will cause the enemy to make supplication to God in a time of disaster and in a time of distress -judged by God on their character -see Ezekiel 11:14-20 for what the Lord had in store for the men who will receive the mark: Ezek's bros, relatives, fellow exiles, whole as. of Israel, all of them who inhabitants have said, Go far from the LORD, this land is ours now. God has removed these far away from the land, among the nations, scattered them among countries, He was a sanctuary for them for the time they were in the other countries. God will gather them from the peoples and assemble them out of the countries among which they have been scattered and shall give them the land of Israel. They will remove all detestable things/abominations from it, He shall give them 1 heart, put new spirit within, take out heart of stone, put heart flesh in, will be His people, He will be their God

Ezekiel's Second Vision - Transported to Jerusalem to see Sin for Four Sets of People -

Idol of Jealousy at entrance to the N. Gate of inner court	70 Elders worshipping Pantheon of Idols in God's House	Women worshipping Tammuz	25 Priests worshipping the Sun
<p>-possibly idol that was placed in temple in reign of Manasseh, destroyed during Josiah's reign and then reappeared after Josiah died in battle - 2 Kings 21, 23, 2 Chronicles 33 - Asherah pole/Baal</p> <p>- whatever, it was an idol of a god who was cappable of taking the eyes of the Israelites off of their God and onto the idol</p> <p>-violated 1st and 2nd commandments of the 10 commandments</p> <p>-God would not stay in this temple b/c the worship of the people belonged to Him not the idol - He will share His glory with no one</p>	<p>-carved into the walls of the temple; Ezekiel brought to the entrance of the court to a hole in wall and entered temple this way</p> <p>- 70 elders were the leaders of the people left in the land before the 3rd siege of Jerusalem</p> <p>-burning of incense signified prayers going up to the god in worship, soothing to the god b/c altar coals to light the incense had been dripped on with the blood of the sacrifice at the bronze altar</p> <p>-Shaphan - worthy, faithful father of Jaazaniah</p> <p>-men said the Lord does not see us -the people did as the leaders did</p>	<p>-Women weeping for Tammuz</p> <p>-Tammuz was miraculously born son of Semiramis, the queen wife of Nimrod (Assyria). This wife had supernaturally born a son who was associated with worshipping the sun</p> <p>-the Babylonians worshipped this god by celebrating death/life of Tammuz who controlled fertility of their crops</p>	<p>-the greatest abomination</p> <p>-25 men worshipping the sun</p> <p>-their backs to the temple of the LORD & faces towards the E, protrating themselves eastward toward the sun</p> <p>-makes me wonder at television watching</p> <p>-these were in the temple probably at the bronze altar where priests offered sacrifices for sin</p>