

# THE GLORY OF THE LORD DEPARTS FROM A DEGRADED TEMPLE AND CITY (8:1- 11:25)

- **♦ Idolatry is Seen in the Temple (8:1-18)** 
  - $\Rightarrow$  Image of jealousy (8:1-6)
  - $\Rightarrow$  A secret animal cult (8:7-13)
  - $\Rightarrow$  Sun worship (8:16-18)
- ⋄ The Wicked are Slaughtered While the Righteous are Spared (9:1-11)
  - $\Rightarrow$  The Mark
- **♦ The Glory of the Lord Departs from the Temple (10:1-22)** 
  - ⇒ Coals of fire over Jerusalem (10:1-8)
  - ⇒ The departure of the Divine Presence (10:18-22)
- **♦ The Threat of Judgment, a Promise of Mercy (11:1-25)** 
  - ⇒ Rebellious rulers are threatened (11:1-13)
  - ⇒ A remnant of Israel shall be gathered out of the nations (11:14-21)
  - $\Rightarrow$  The Forsaken Sanctuary (11:22-25)

### JEFFERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall 2016 Adult Bible Study

Ezekiel

By Elder Betsi Moise

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# EZEKIEL: GOD IS STRON

# NOTES:

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## Frustrated by Weakness

In exploring the first 11 Chapters of Ezekiel, we come face-to-face with the wrath of God in the face of our sins and we are undone.

What can we do? What is our hope?

There is a deep frustration—one with which *only* Christians can identify and one with which *all* Christians can identify. The Christian's agony comes from realizing that our sinful flesh refuses to respond to the requirements of God's Law.

Those things which we as Christians despise we find ourselves doing. Those things which we as Christians desire we fail to accomplish. No matter how much we may wish to serve God in our minds, we find ourselves sinning in our bodies.

As Paul describes his frustration in Romans 7:14-24, with his mind he desires to serve God. He agrees with the Law of God and rejoices in it. He wants to do what is right, but his body will not respond. We feel this tension in our own lives today.

I don't want to call it "good" company or make an excuse for sin, but we can at least take consolation in the fact sin has always been in the hearts of humanity and everyone struggles with it.

Paul's only hope is: "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25)

We need to read the Scriptures and understand God's Word so we recognize our sins. It is important for us to be able to identify our sins and deal with them.

Once we recognize our sins, we need to pray that God will help deliver us from our them. It is never easy to admit a struggle, but telling another person your struggles will give you a higher level of accountability.

Sin is a serious problem that continues to infect the world. Left unchecked it will hamper our relationship with Jesus.

But, remember, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

### **Questions:**

### Chapter 8

- Where does Ezekiel see the "Image of Jealousy" standing in the vision?
- ♦ How would God be jealous of us as Christians today?Chapter 9 (8)
- (As Abraham pleaded for Sodom and Amos attempted to intercede for Israel, Ezekiel pleads for a remnant to be spared. Though God had made Ezekiel hardheaded, He had allowed him to remain soft-hearted.)

   Who would we plead for today?

### Chapter 11 (1-13)

The Israelites could not conceive, did not believe that God would allow for the destruction of Jerusalem. They were secure in the city. What are some of the notions of security in the world today? In this country?

### Chapter 11(11:14-16)

What wrong conclusion had the survivors in Jerusalem reached regarding those in captivity? What promise did God make concerning them?

### **Reflections:**

- What are some of the idols we have a tendency to worship today?
- A loving God and harsh judgements—meditate on Psalm 23, and consider both aspects of our Lord.
- ♦ Contrast the "heart of stone" and the "heart of flesh" in Ezekiel 11:19-20.

### **Biblical References:**

Ezekiel	See and Compare
8:10	Genesis 1:28; Romans 1:25
9:1	Revelation. 7:3; 8:2
9:4	Revelation. 14:9
11:15	Ruth 2:20
11:16	Matthew. 26:61; 27:40; John 2:19; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Peter. 2:5
11:19-21	Matthew. 7:13

