

**The Book of Ezekiel**  
**Lesson 10: The Glory Has Departed- Part 1**  
**“The Temple is Defiled”**  
**September 27, 2020**  
**Ezekiel 8:1-18**  
**Answers**

**Recap from Session 9:**

- **The Devastation of the Land (7:1-27)**
  - o The Nation of Israel was blessed with a gracious Lord to worship and love. Their **Love** and **Obedience** to Him would determine how much blessing He could entrust to them in the land.
- 1. **Disaster Announced (7:1-9)**
- 2. **Disaster Picture (7:10-21)**
  - a. Ezekiel painted four word pictures to arouse their interest and perhaps reach their hearts.
    - i. The first is the **Budding Rod (7:10-11)**
    - ii. The second is taking from the **Business World (7:12-13)**
      - 1. This idea has the Jewish **“Year of Jubilee”** in the background (**Lev. 25**). Every Seventh Year was set apart as a sabbatical year, during which the land lay fallow and debts were cancelled.
    - iii. The third picture is that of the **Watchman (7:14-15)**
    - iv. The final picture is **People Throwing away their Valuables (7:19-21)**
- 3. **Disruption from the Disaster (7:22-27)**

**Session 10**

**Background/Introduction:**

- The **Gentile** nation had their temples, priests, religious laws, and sacrifices, but only the nation of **Israel** had the glory of the **True** and **Living** God dwelling in their midst. (**Rom. 9:4**)
- When Moses dedicated the tabernacle, God’s glory **Moved** in, but the sins of the people caused the glory to **Depart**. (**Ex. 40:34-35**).
- When Solomon dedicated the temple, once again God’s glory **Filled** the sanctuary. (**I Ki. 8:11**)
  - o Without the presence of the glory of the Lord, God’s people are just another religious crowd, going through the motions.
    - The people are **Identified** by the **Presence** of God.
- 1. **The Temple is Defiled (8:1-18)**
  - In this chapter, Ezekiel had two vivid experiences that led to a sad declaration: **God would Unleash His Fury and Judge His people without pity.**
    - a. **The Glory of God was Revealed (Vss. 1-2)**
      - i. Above everything else, God’s **Servants** need to focus on the **Glory** of God.
      - ii. God’s servants may think that their greatest need is to see new visions and hear new voices, but the Lord does not always work in that way.

- iii. Instead, He often meets the need by giving us a fresh **Experience** of the **Original** call.
- b. **The Idolatry of the People was Exposed (Vss. 3-16)**
  - i. Ezekiel was **Lifted** from his house in Babylon and taken to the temple in Jerusalem.
    - 1. He was **Not** transported bodily; he remained in his house and saw what was going on in the temple. (**Ezek. 11:1; 24**)
  - ii. The first thing he saw in the temple was an **Idol!** It is called “The image of jealousy” because idolatry provokes the Lord who is jealous over His people. (**Deut. 32:21**)
  - iii. King Hezekiah had removed idolatry from the land (**2 Kings 18:1-5**), but King Manasseh not only restored it but made it worse. But godly King Josiah purged the land of idolatry and burned the idol and crushed it to powder (**2 Ki. 23:4-20**).
    - 1. But the idol had been **Replaced!** The remarkable thing is that the glory of God was present in the **Same** temple, but God was about to remove His glory and Ezekiel would watch it occur.
    - 2. It was the blasphemous **Sins** of the religious **Leaders** that drove God away from His holy house.
  - iv. The Lord then led him to a place in the temple where there was a hole in the wall leading to a secret chamber.
    - 1. When Ezekiel entered the room, he saw **Seventy** elders of the people (**Ex. 24:9-10**), burning incense before various idols whose images were painted on the wall, each man worshipping his own idol (**Ezek. 8:12**).
  - v. There was more sin for Ezekiel to see in the temple. This time, it was the women at the gate of the temple who were openly taking part in a heathen ritual dedicated to **Tammuz** (**8:13-14**).
    - 1. While not all scholars agree, Tammuz is usually identified as a **Fertility god** whom the Egyptians called Osiris and the Greeks called Adonis.
  - vi. The next sight that would grieve Ezekiel’s heart was that of **Twenty-five** (25) men at the door of the temple, between the porch (Entry) and the brazen altar, openly bowing to the **Sun** (**Ezek. 8:15-16**).
    - 1. Idolatry was a **Besetting** sin among the Jewish people. (**I Jn. 5:21**)
- c. **The Divine Judgment is Announced (Vss. 17-18)**
  - i. In God’s sight, these things were **Abominable** and **Detestable**, and they provoked Him to anger.
    - 1. When people **Lose** their **Fear** of God, they do as they please and do not **Worry** about the **Consequence**.
  - ii. The Lord had presented the evidence and announced the verdict, and now He declared the sentence: **He would Obey His covenant and severely Punish His People for their multiplied Sins.**