

The Book of Ezekiel
Lesson 12: The Glory Has Departed- Part 3
“The Leaders Are Deceived”
Ezekiel 11:1-25
October 18, 2020
Answers

Recap from Session 11:

- **The Remnant Spared (9:1-4)**
 - o In his vision, Ezekiel was still in the temple in Jerusalem when he heard the Lord summoned six **“Men”** (Angels)
 - These seven angles congregated at the altar of burnt offering, the place where the fire of God’s holy judgment consumed the sacrifices.
 - The fire declared the **Holiness** of God, but the blood sacrifice on the altar declared the **Grace** of God.
- **The Rebels Judged (9:5-10:7)**
 - o The other six angels were to follow the scribe-angel and **Kill** everybody on whom he did not put the mark, and **Nobody** was to be spared because of sex or age.
 - o In **Response** to Ezekiel’s concern and prayer, the Lord revealed His **Glory** once again.
- **The Glory Revealed (10:8-22)**
 - o Ezekiel was learning that the most important part of the nation’s life was to **Magnify** the glory of God. The presence of God in the sanctuary was a great **Privilege** for the people of Israel, but it was also a great **Responsibility**.

Session 12

Introduction:

- When you read the prophecy of Jeremiah, you discover that the civil and religious leaders of the kingdom of Judah, as well as the rulers of Jerusalem, were not interested in **Knowing** and **Doing** the will of God.
 - o During Judah’s last years, the people were ruled by weak men who promoted idolatry and would not call the people to **Repentance** and **Prayer (2 Chron. 7:14)**.
- 1. **The City is like a Cauldron (Vss. 1-13)**
 - a. Ezekiel was still having his vision of Jerusalem and the temple, and the Lord showed him **Twenty-Five** men at the eastern door of the temple, worshipping the **Sun. (Ezek. 8:15-18)**
 - b. Among them were the **Leaders** of the people, Jaazaniah and Pelatiah. (This is not the Jaazaniah of **8:11**).
 - i. These men were giving wicked advice to the king and the other leaders in Jerusalem, but their counsel was not from the Lord.
 - ii. They were plotting the evil so that they could benefit personally from the Babylonian attack on the city. In every crisis, you will find **“Opportunists”** who seek to help themselves instead of helping their country, and they usually hide behind the mask of **Patriotism**.

- iii. **Ezek. 11:3, “Is not the time near to build houses,”** they asked. Jeremiah had told the exiles to build houses in **Babylon** and settle down and raise families, because they would live there for **75** years.
 - iv. These evil leaders were sure that Jerusalem was as safe for them as a piece of meat in a cooking pot. The innuendo in this metaphor was that the people in Jerusalem were choice **Cuts** of meat, while the exiles in Babylon were just the **Rejected** pieces.
 - 1. Of course, just the opposite was true! Had the leaders in Jerusalem listened to Jeremiah’s message about the **Basket** of figs, they would have seen their philosophy completely reversed.
 - 2. The good figs were the **Exiles** and the bad figs were the people **Left** in Jerusalem (**Jer. 24:1-7**).
 - 3. God would **Preserve** a remnant form among the exiles, but the idolaters in Jerusalem would be slain.
 - v. The Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy against those evil leaders and point out that they were not the meat- but they were the **Butchers!**
2. **Jehovah, the Sanctuary of His People (Vss. 14-21)**
- a. This is God’s word of **Encouragement** to His servant that He would **Fulfill** His promise and spare a remnant of the people.
 - i. In ancient days, people believed that each **Nation** had its own gods, and when you left your home country, you left your **gods** behind.
 - ii. Of course, Jehovah had revealed himself to Abraham as “A possessor of Heaven and Earth,” so the Jewish leaders should not have had such a **Narrow** view of God.
 - b. There are a few promises God made in these verses of Scripture...
 - i. First, God Himself would be to them a **“Sanctuary fort for a little while” (Ezek. 11:16)** during their captivity. (**Ps. 90:1**)
 - 1. The **Self-confident** Jews in Jerusalem thought they were secure as long as they had the temple, but the true temple was with the exiles in Babylon.
 - ii. His second promise was **“I will even Gather you” (Ezek. 11:17)**. A remnant of Jews would one day **Return** to the land and **Rebuild** the temple.
 - iii. His third promise was, **“I will Give you the land of Israel” (Ezek. 11:17)**.
 - 1. Since God had already given this land to Abraham, and his descendants, **Nobody** else could successfully claim it.
 - c. The promises in **Ezek. 11:19-21** goes beyond the return of the Jewish exiles after the Babylonian captivity, for Scripture records no evidence of this kind of spiritual renewal in the **Pose-Exile** period.
 - i. The Promises **Apply** to the **End** times when God’s people, Israel, will be regathered to their land, and will repent of their sins and trust their **Messiah (Zech. 12-14)**.
3. **The Glory Departs (Vss. 22-25)**
- a. The chariot throne had been lingering at the **Threshold** of the East gate of the temple, with the glory of God above. (**Ezek. 10:18-19**)

- b. Now the glory of God departed and rested over the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. Ezekiel could have written "Ichabod" over the east gate, for indeed "**The glory had departed**" (**I Sam. 4:19-22**).
 - c. However, Ezekiel saw the glory return, this time to the New temple that will stand during the reign of Christ in His Kingdom (**Ezek. 43:1-5**).
 - d. After the temple was destroyed in 586 BC, the Glory of God Disappeared from the earth and did not return until the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. (**Lk. 2:9; Jn. 1:14**)
- When the vision ended, Ezekiel found himself back in his Own house in Babylon, and he told the Jewish elders and the other exiles, what the Lord had shown him.
 - o But **Four** years later, Ezekiel would get the message that the siege of Jerusalem had begun. (**Ezek. 24:1-2**)
 - o This date was **January 15, 588 BC**. Three years later (January 8, 585 BC), a fugitive would arrive in Babylon with the news that the city had fallen. (**Ezek. 32:21**)
 - **God Word Never Fails!**

