



EZEKIEL: *Death and Resurrection*

A Bible Study with John Oswalt

EZEKIEL 8–9

Background: The vision that begins in chapter 8 carries on through chapter 11. As stated in earlier lessons, the vision establishes the thorough corruption of the Jerusalem temple. Notice the similarity between Manasseh's sins as described in 2 Kings 21:4–7 and those described here. Josiah had cleansed the temple, but it looks as if Josiah's sons brought it all back.

- It is probable that the image of jealousy (Ezek. 8:3, 5) is that of Asherah, one of the Canaanite fertility goddesses. See 2 Kings 21:7 and 23:6.
 - Tammuz was a Mesopotamian god of vegetation. When he died in the Fall, women would weep so that he would know he was loved and would come back in the Spring.
 - When Ezekiel refers to the “remnant” (9:8), he is thinking of the people left in Jerusalem after the deportations of 605 and 598.
1. Notice the date and compare it to Ezekiel 1:1. How much time has elapsed? What might this suggest about the timing of the instructions in chapter 4? What are your observations?
 2. Compare the description in Ezekiel 8:2 with that in 1:27. What are your conclusions?
 3. Note that Ezekiel is being taken deeper into the temple complex, from the gate to the outer courtyard, through the wall into the inner courtyard, and finally to the temple building itself. What would what is described in verses 7–13 be comparable to today? Why is sexual activity so fascinating and obsessive to us?
 4. How does the attitude “the Lord has forsaken his land” relate to the Christian who falls into habitual sin?
 5. What kinds of things happen in a church where its leaders are overtaken by hidden sins (not merely sexual ones)?

6. In what ways are what is described in Ezekiel 8:16 a reversal of what should have been happening?
7. Explain how the things described here could have happened in the very house of Yahweh?
8. Notice Ezekiel 8:17. What is the connection between worship of the world and violence?
9. What significance do you see in the direction from which the six men came in Ezekiel 9:2?
10. What was the behavior that procured amnesty for some people? What is the significance of such behavior?
11. What do you make of the references to “the glory of the Lord” and his movements in these chapters?