



# EZEKIEL: *Death and Resurrection*

A Bible Study with John Oswalt

## EZEKIEL 10–11

Background: The situation in chapter 11 is complicated. Presumably Ezekiel is physically in Babylon, but his vision is in Jerusalem in the temple. In his vision he sees men he recognizes; they are leaders who have replaced those carried off in 598. Then he is instructed to prophesy, presumably to the exiles in Babylon (vv. 7–12). They are permitted to hear what God has to say about those leaders because it has relevance for the exiles in Babylon.

It is difficult to make sense of Ezekiel 11:3. Is it saying the time is, or is not, near for the building of houses? The versions demonstrate this uncertainty. The most recent thinking is that the second option is correct. The point would be that the people need not worry about rebuilding their houses because the leaders will take care of everything.

1. How is the vision that we first encountered in chapter 1 being used here? How is its function different here from there?
2. Where are the cherubim standing when the sequence starts (Ezek. 10:3)? What happens next (Ezek. 10:4)?

What do you think is the significance of this? Look up Exodus 40:34–35; 2 Chronicles 7:1–3.

3. What is the difference between the cherubim over the ark of the covenant and these cherubim? What is the significance of the difference?
4. What is Ezekiel 10:18 telling us about Yahweh's developing relationship to the temple?
5. Presumably, the bad advice (v. 2) is that Jerusalem is like a sealed storage pot and that those in it are entirely secure. Why is it bad advice?

6. In fact, says Yahweh, Jerusalem is a cooking pot full of the results of your corrupt, oppressive leadership (see Micah 3:1–3 for a fuller statement). So what will be the result? What is the message to the exiles?
7. Compare Ezekiel 9:8 and 11:13. What does this tell us about the heart of the prophet? How does God answer him?
8. What are the people in Jerusalem saying, but what is the truth? What will characterize the faithful remnant when they return (vv. 18–20).
9. What do verses 22–24 tell us?
10. How would you sum up the message of these two chapters for us today?