

Overstaying Your Welcome

Exploring Ezekiel, Amir Tsarfati

Chapter 3

Capture the Scene (What do I see?)

Using your Bible, answer the following questions.

1. What happened to the prophet in Ezekiel 8:3, and where was he taken?

2. In verse 6, what did God tell Ezekiel to look for?

3. What did Ezekiel see in....
 - a. Verse 5?

 - b. Verse 10?

 - c. Verse 14?

 - d. Verse 16?

4. What attitude did the people have regarding the Lord, according to verse 12?

5. In verse 18, how did God say He would respond to His wayward people?

6. In Ezekiel 9:3, where did the Lord's glory rise up from, and where did it go?
7. What mission did God give to the man with the pen and ink, and what were the men who carried weapons to do (Ezekiel 9:3-5)?
8. What were the men with weapons to do when they encountered a person who had been marked (verse 6)? What were they to do to everyone else (verse 6-7)?
9. What did Ezekiel say to God in verse 8, and how did God respond in verse 9?
10. Where did the glory of the Lord move to in Ezekiel 10:4? From where did the glory of the Lord depart in verse 18, and where did it pause in verse 19?
11. Who did God command Ezekiel to prophesy against in Ezekiel 11:2-4?
12. In the book *Exploring Ezekiel*, on page 66, we read this about the men in Ezekiel 11:2-4:

It was their self-sufficient , “We’ve got this on our own, so who needs God?” attitude that was so grating to the Lord. Not only did these men believe this lie, but they were in a position to deceive the rest of the city into believing they were perfectly fine to just keep doing what they were doing. These men were liars of the most heinous kind.

What words of warning did God give to these men in verses 7-10?

13. After God warned them that He would disperse the people in judgement, what assurance did He give them in verse 16 (see also page 67 in your copy of *Exploring Ezekiel*)?
14. What promise did God give to the soon-to-be exiles in verse 17?
15. And what further promise did God give in verses 19-20 to those who would abandon their abominations?

Analyze The Message (What does it say and mean?)

Using both your Bible and the copy of *Exploring Ezekiel*, answer the following questions.

1. In Ezekiel chapter 8, God shows His prophet four different abominations being committed by the people of Israel. This includes an idolatrous image (verse 5), idolatrous wall art in the temple (verses 10-11), women weeping for Tammuz, a Babylonian god (verse 14), and a group of men engaged in sun worship (verse 16). Then in verse 18, God says “Therefore I also will act fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.”
 - a. Based on what you read about the people of Israel in Ezekiel chapter 8, what words would you use to describe their character?
 - b. What words would you use to describe God/s character, based on His response to the people’s actions?

2. In Ezekiel 8-11, we read about a major transition in God's dealings with His people. He determines it is time to remove His glory from their presence. Note the stages in which this took place:

- Ezekiel 9:3; 10-4— God's glory moves from between the wings of a cherub on a mercy seat to the threshold of the temple.
- Ezekiel 10:18-19— His glory moves from the threshold to the East Gate.
- Ezekiel 11:22-23— His glory departs from the East Gate and moves to the Mount of Olives outside the city walls of Jerusalem.

God's glory will return to a future temple during Christ's millennial kingdom on Earth. What does the prophecy say will happen, according to Ezekiel 43:2-7?

Compare This Passage With the Rest of the Scripture

(How is it supported elsewhere in the Bible)

1. In Ezekiel 8, God revealed to the prophet some examples of the detestable idol worship the Israelites engaged in. What command had God given to His people long before in Exodus 20:3-6?
2. Read Exodus 34:14 and Deuteronomy 6:15. For what reason did God prohibit idolatry?
3. In Psalm 115:4-7, what did God say about idols, and in verse 8, what did He say about those who make idols?

4. What did God warn would happen to those who worshipped idols, according to Deuteronomy 27:15?
5. In Ezekiel 9:3-4, which people did God say were to be given a mark? In Romans 11:4-5, what did the apostle Paul confirm happened in both Elijah's day and Paul's day?

Execute (How does this affect my life?)

1. In Ezekiel's day, the people of Israel no longer welcomed God in their midst. What are some ways that we as Christians are guilty of leaving God out of our lives?
2. What are some of the consequences you personally have experienced in times when you've allowed sin to become between you and God?
3. In Corinthians 13:5, Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in faith . Test yourselves." Why is it good for us to examine our hearts frequently even though we have the assurance that Christ has already forgiven us all our trespasses and cancelled our debt of sin, according to Colossians 2:13-14?
4. What are some reasons we fail to be diligent about dealing with sin in our lives?
5. Sometimes we justify allowing sin in our lives by telling ourselves we aren't hurting anyone else, or by saying the sin isn't all that serious. Why is it dangerous to have such thoughts?

6. Read Hebrews 10:26 and James 4:17. Based on these passages, how do you think God feels when we sin deliberately, knowing that what we are doing is wrong?

7. What are some ways you can regularly and intentionally make an effort to invite God into your life?

8. Psalm 42:1-2 says, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Does this describe your heart for God? Where do you see room for growth in your relationship with God?