

## Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—A Vision of the Departure of God's Glory (September 17, 592 BC)

Ezekiel 8–11

### Introduction to the Visions

8:1 And then in the sixth year, in the sixth *month*, on the fifth *day* of the month, I was sitting in my house, and the elders of Judah were sitting before me. And the hand of the Lord Yahweh fell on me there,

### The Idol of Jealousy

2 and I saw, and look! A figure like *the* appearance of a man; from the appearance of his waist and below *was* fire, and from his waist and upward *was* like *the* appearance of brightness, like the outward appearance of amber.

3 And he sent out *the* form of a hand, and he took me by a lock of hair of my head, and *the* Spirit lifted me between earth and heaven, and it brought me to Jerusalem in visions of God to the doorway of *the* inner gate that faced north, *at* which there *was* the seat of the image of jealousy, which was making jealous.

4 And look! There *was* the glory of the God of Israel like the vision that I saw in the valley.

5 And he said to me, "Son of man, lift up now your eyes toward the north." And I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and, look, *there was* to the north of the gate of the altar this image of jealousy at the entrance.

6 And he said to me, "Son of man, "Do you see what they *are* doing—great detestable things that the house of Israel *is* committing here *so as* to drive *me* from my sanctuary, and yet you will see again greater detestable things."

### Idol Worship by the Elders

7 And he brought me to the doorway of the courtyard, and I saw, and look! A hole in the wall.

8 And he said to me, "Son of man, dig now through the wall." And I dug through the wall, and look! There was a doorway.

9 And he said to me, "Come and see the detestable things, the evil that they are doing here.

10 And I came, and I saw, and look, all kinds of creatures and detestable beasts; *and* all of the idols of the house of Israel *were* carved on the wall all around.

11 And seventy men from the elders of the house of Israel, and Jaazaniah, the son of Shaphan, *was* standing in the midst of them, *and they were* standing before them. Each *one had* his censer in his hand, and the fragrance of the cloud of the incense *was* going up.

12 And he said to me, "Have you seen, son of man, what the elders of the house of Israel *are* doing in the dark, each in the inner rooms of his idol, for *they are* saying, 'Yahweh *is* not seeing us; Yahweh has abandoned the land.'"

13 And he said to me, "Still you will see again greater detestable things that they *are* doing."

### Idol Worship by the Women

14 And he brought me to the doorway of the gate of the house of Yahweh that *is* toward the north, and look! There *were* the women sitting weeping for Tammuz.

15 And he said to me, "Have you seen, son of man? Still you will see again greater detestable things than these."

### Worshipping the Sun

16 And he brought me to the inner courtyard of the house of Yahweh, and look, *at* the doorway of the temple of Yahweh, between the portico and the altar, *there were* about twenty-five men *with* their backs to the temple of Yahweh and their faces toward the east, and they *were* bowing down toward the east before the sun.

17 And he said to me, "Have you seen, son of man? Was it too small a thing for the house of Judah to do the detestable things that they did here? For they filled up the land *with* violence, and they provoked me to anger again, and look! They *are* putting the branch to their nose.

18 And so I will act in rage, and my eye will not take pity, and I will not have compassion, and they will cry in my ear *with* a loud voice, and I will not hear them."

### The Heavenly Executioners

9:1 And he called in my ears *with* a loud voice, saying, "*They* have come near, the punishers of the city, and each *with* his weapon of destruction in his hand.

2 And look! Six men coming from the way of the upper gate that faced northward, and each *with* his weapon for shattering in his hand; and one man *was* in the midst of them, dressed in linen, and the writing case of the scribe *was* at his side. And they came and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 And the glory of the God of Israel lifted itself up from upon the cherub that he was on *and went* to the threshold of the house, and he called to the man who *was* clothed in linen with a scribal writing case at his side.

4 And Yahweh said to him, "Go through in the midst of the city, in the midst of Jerusalem, and you must place a mark on the foreheads of the men who are groaning and lamenting about all of the detestable things that are being done in the midst of her."

5 And to the others he said in my hearing, "Go through the city behind him and kill! Your eyes shall not take pity, and you shall not have compassion.

6 You must kill totally old man, young man and young woman, and little children and women, but concerning every man with the mark on him you must not approach; and from my sanctuary you must begin.” And they began with the old men who were before the house.

7 And he said to them, “Defile the house and fill the courtyards *with* the dead; go out! And they went out, and they killed in the city.  
8 And then as they were striking, and I *was* left behind, I fell on my face, and I cried out, and I said, “Ah, Lord Yahweh! “*Will you be* destroying all of the remnant of Israel while you pour out your rage on Jerusalem?”

9 And he said to me, “The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah *is* exceedingly great, and the land is filled with bloodguilt, and the city is full of injustice. For they say Yahweh abandoned the land, and Yahweh does not see.

10 And I, my eye will not take pity, and I will not have compassion; their way I will bring on their head.”

11 And look! The man clothed in linen *and* with a writing case at his side *was* bringing back a word, saying, “I have done all that you commanded me.”

### God’s Glory Leaves the Most Holy Place

10:1 And I looked, and look! On the expanse that *was* above the head of the cherubim *something* like a stone of sapphire, *and* like *the* appearance of *the* shape of a throne it appeared above them.

2 And he spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, “Go in among the wheel area under the cherubim and fill the hollow of your hands *with* coals of fire from among the cherubim, and toss *them* on the city.” And he went *right* before my eyes.

3 Now the cherubim *were* standing on *the* south of the temple when the man went, and the cloud filled the inner courtyard.

4 And the glory of Yahweh rose up from on the cherub toward the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the courtyard was filled with the brightness of the glory of Yahweh.

5 And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer courtyard; *it was* like the voice of God Shaddai when he speaks.

6 And then at his command to the man clothed in linen, saying, “Take fire from among the wheel area from among the cherubim,” he went and stood beside the wheel.

7 Then the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim toward the fire that *was* among the cherubim, and he lifted up and gave *it* into the hollow of the hand of *the man* clothed with linen, and he took *it*, and he went out.

8 And *there* appeared for the cherubim *the* form of a human hand under their wings.

### God’s Glory Leaves the Temple

9 And I saw, and look, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub, and the appearance of the wheels *was* like *the* outward appearance of turquoise stone.

10 Their appearance was the same for each of the four of them, as if the wheel was in the midst of a wheel.

11 When they went to the four of their directions *that* they went, they did not change direction when they went, for the place *to* which the head turned, they went behind him; they did not change direction at their going.

12 And their whole body, and their rims, and their spokes, and their wings, and the wheels *were* full of eyes *all* around—the wheels for the four of them.

13 Concerning the wheels, he *was* calling them “the wheelwork” in my hearing.

14 And each one had four faces; the face of the one *was* the face of a cherub, and the face of the second *was the* face of a human, and the face of the third *was the* face of a lion, and the fourth *was the* face of an eagle.

15 And the cherubim rose; that is, the living creatures that I saw at the Kebar River.

16 And when the cherubim went, the wheels beside them went; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to rise up from the earth, the wheels also did not turn aside from beside them.

17 When they stood, they stood, and at their rising, they rose with them, for the spirit of the living creatures *was* in them.

18 And the glory of Yahweh went out from the threshold of the temple, and it stood above the cherubim.

19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings, and they rose from the earth before my eyes. At their going out, the wheels *were* beside them. And he stood *at* the doorway of the eastern gate of the temple of Yahweh, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

20 This *was* the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel at the Kebar River, and I knew that they *were* cherubim.

21 Each one had four faces, and *there were* four wings for each, and *the* likeness of human hands *was* under their wings.

22 And the likeness of their faces, they *were* the faces that I saw at the Kebar River; *thus was* their appearance, and they each went straight ahead.

### The Wicked Advice of the Officials

11:1 And *the* Spirit lifted me up, and it brought me to the eastern gate, the one facing east, of the temple of Yahweh. And look, there were twenty-five men in the doorway of the gate, and I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azzur in the midst of them, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, the commanders of the people.

2 And he said to me, “Son of man, these *are* the men who devise mischief, and *who are* offering bad counsel in this city,

3 *who are* saying, “The building of houses *is* not near; *the city* is the pot, and we *are* the flesh.

4 Therefore prophesy against them! Prophesy, son of man!”

5 And the Spirit of Yahweh fell on me, and he said to me, "Say, 'thus says Yahweh: "This is what you think, house of Israel, and I myself know them, the thoughts of your spirit.

6 You made your slain ones numerous in this city, and you have filled its streets *with* slain ones."

7 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Your slain ones whom you put in its midst, they *are* the flesh, and it is *the* pot, and I will bring you out from its midst.

8 *The* sword you have feared, and *the* sword I will bring against you!" declares the Lord Yahweh.

9 "And I will bring you out from its midst, and I will give you into *the* hand of strangers, and I will execute judgments against you.

10 By the sword you will fall at the border of Israel; I will judge you, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh.

11 It will not be as a pot to you, and *so* you would be in the midst of it as flesh, *for* at the border of Israel I will judge you.

12 And you will know that I *am* Yahweh, whose rules you did not follow, and whose regulations you did not do, but according to the regulations of the nations that *are* around you, you acted."

13 And it happened *that* as I was prophesying, Pelatihu the son of Benaiahu died! And I fell on my face, and I cried *with* a loud voice, and I said, "Ah, Lord Yahweh, you *are* making *a* complete destruction *of* the remnant of Israel!"

#### **A New Heart for the Regathered Remnant**

14 And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

15 "Son of man, your brothers, your brothers, the men of your redemption, and all of the house of Israel, all of it, who said concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem, 'They are far from Yahweh, *therefore* to us this land was given as a possession.'

16 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "Though I have removed them *far away* among the nations and though I have scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary to them *for a* little while in the countries to which they have gone."

17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "And I will assemble you from the peoples, and I will gather you from the countries *to* which you were scattered among them, and I will give the land of Israel to you.

18 And *when* they come there, then they will remove all of its vile idols and all of its detestable things from it.

19 And I will give to them one heart, and a new spirit I will give in their inner parts. And I will remove their heart of stone from their body, and I will give to them a heart of flesh,

20 so that they may walk in my statutes, and they will keep my regulations, and they will do them, and they will be to me a people, and I myself will be to them as God.

21 But to the heart of their abominations and the detestable things their heart is going. I will bring their way on their head," declares the Lord Yahweh."

#### **God's Glory Leaves Jerusalem**

22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, and their wheels *were* beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

23 And the glory of Yahweh went up from the midst of the city, and it stood *still* on the mountain that *is* to the east of the city.

#### **The End of the Visions**

24 And *the* Spirit lifted me up, and it brought me to Chaldea, to the exiles, in the vision by the spirit of God; and the vision that I had seen left me.

25 And I spoke to the exiles all of the words of Yahweh that he had shown me.

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