

# GOD REMOVES HIS PRESENCE

Sunday, July 14, 2024 -- ZECHARIAH series -- msg 2 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

ZECHARIAH 1:1-6

English Standard Version (ESV)

**1** *In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, **2** “The Lord was very angry with your fathers. **3** Therefore say to them, **Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. **4** Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, **Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.**’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. **5** Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? **6** But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the Lord of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”***

## GETTING THE BIG PICTURE OF ZECHARIAH’S PROPHECY --

### 1) The Old Testament is setting the stage for us to understand the Gospel.

We must see the great holiness of God.

We must see the great sinfulness of humanity.

We must see God’s justice and wrath against sin.

We must see the power and sacredness of God’s presence.

We must see the impossibility of our salvation without God.

We must see the impossibility of our faithfulness without God.

We must see the redeeming love and grace of God.

### 2) We see the issue of the blessings of God’s presence and the curse of His absence.

**Ezekiel chapters 8-11.** sets the stage for the events of Zechariah’s time

God’s presence is the biggest deal in all of human existence.

It began in the Garden.

It was lost in the Garden.

It appeared to come and go in the OT.

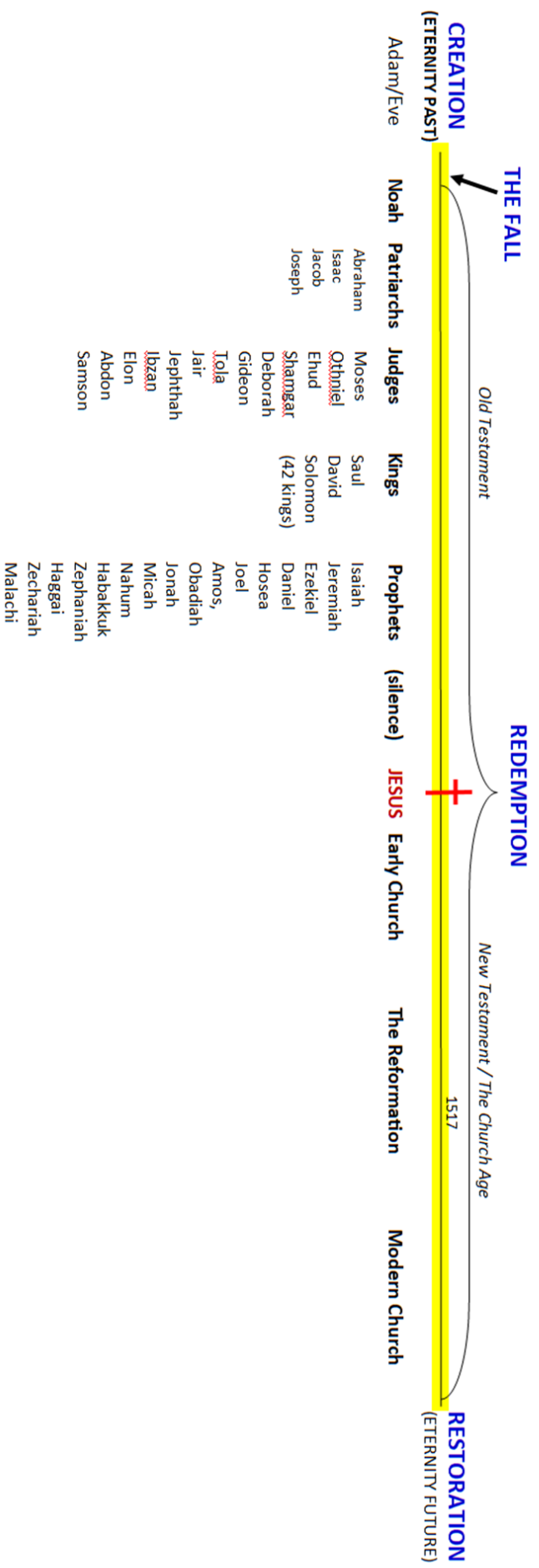
It was made permanently possible at the cross/resurrection.

It was guaranteed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

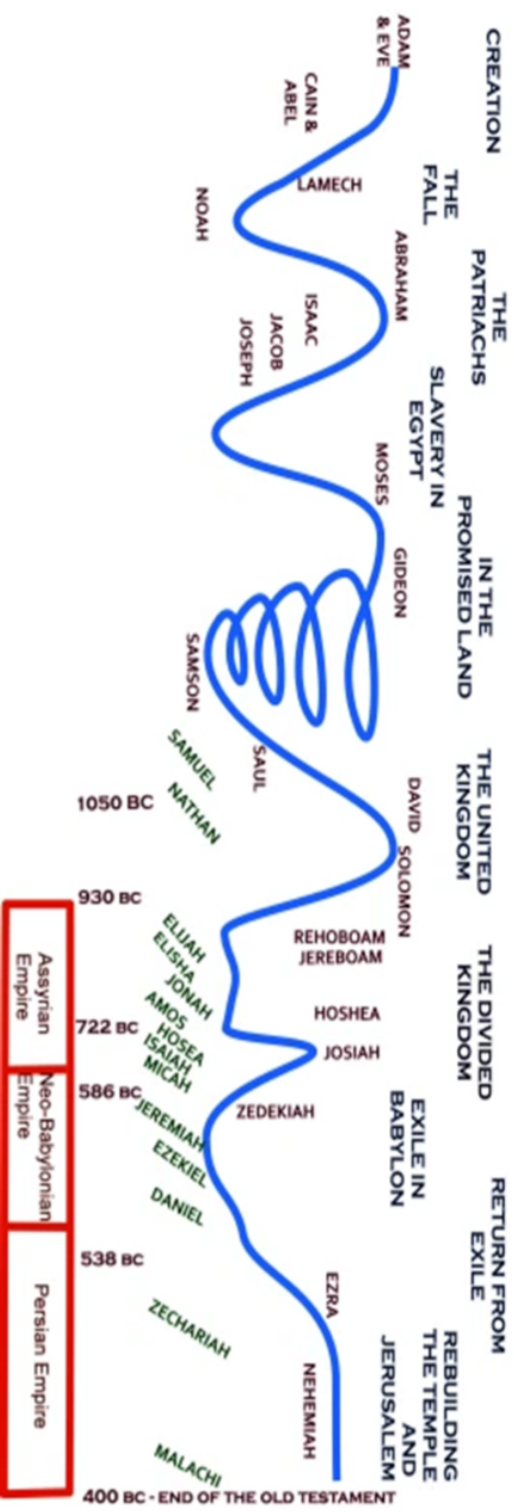
### EXODUS 33:12-16 -- Moses Pleads for God’s Presence with Israel

**12** *Moses said to the Lord, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ **13** Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” **14** And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” **15** And Moses said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. **16** For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”*

KEY QUESTION: How important is God’s presence to me?



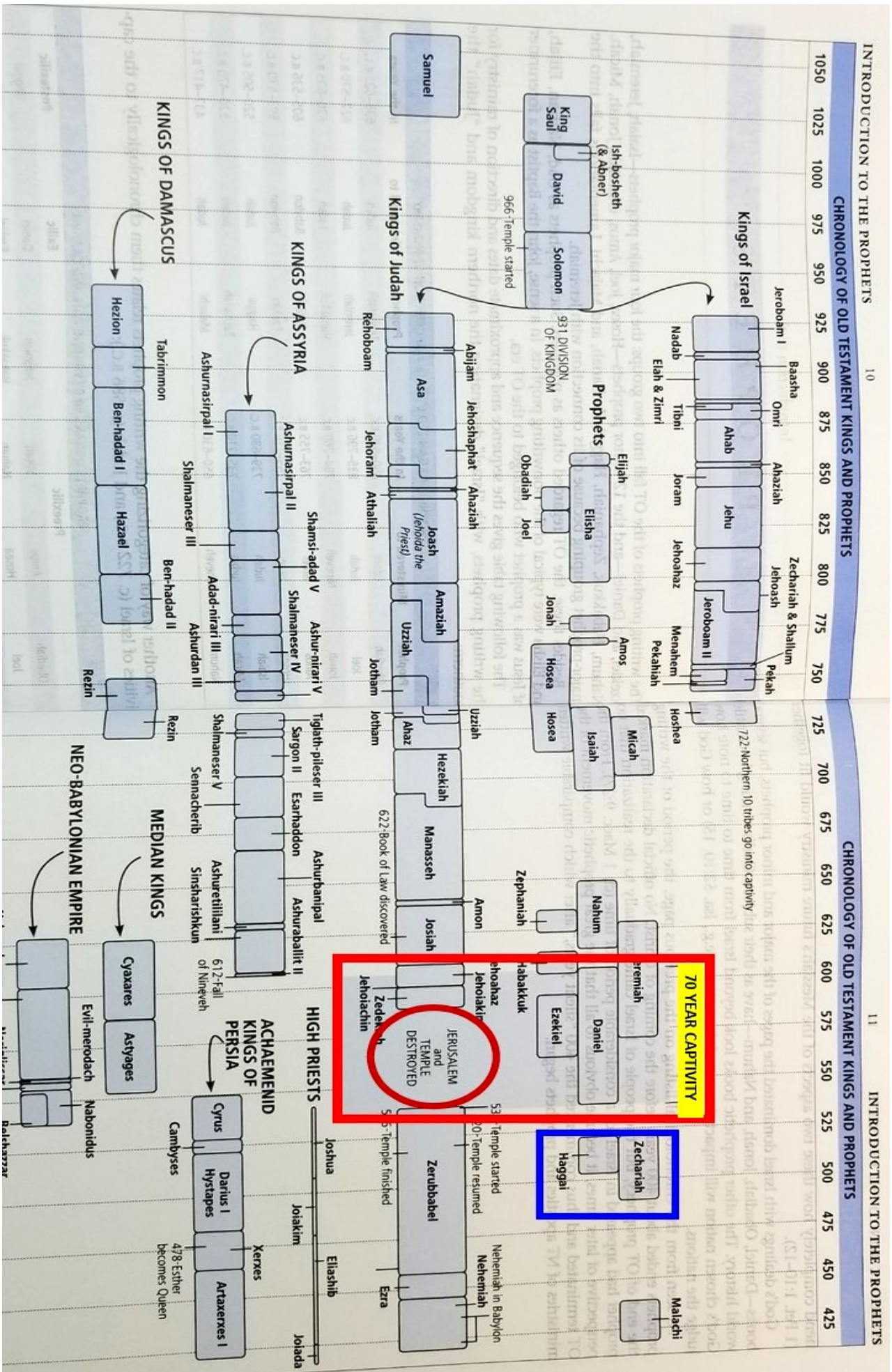
**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES TIMELINE**



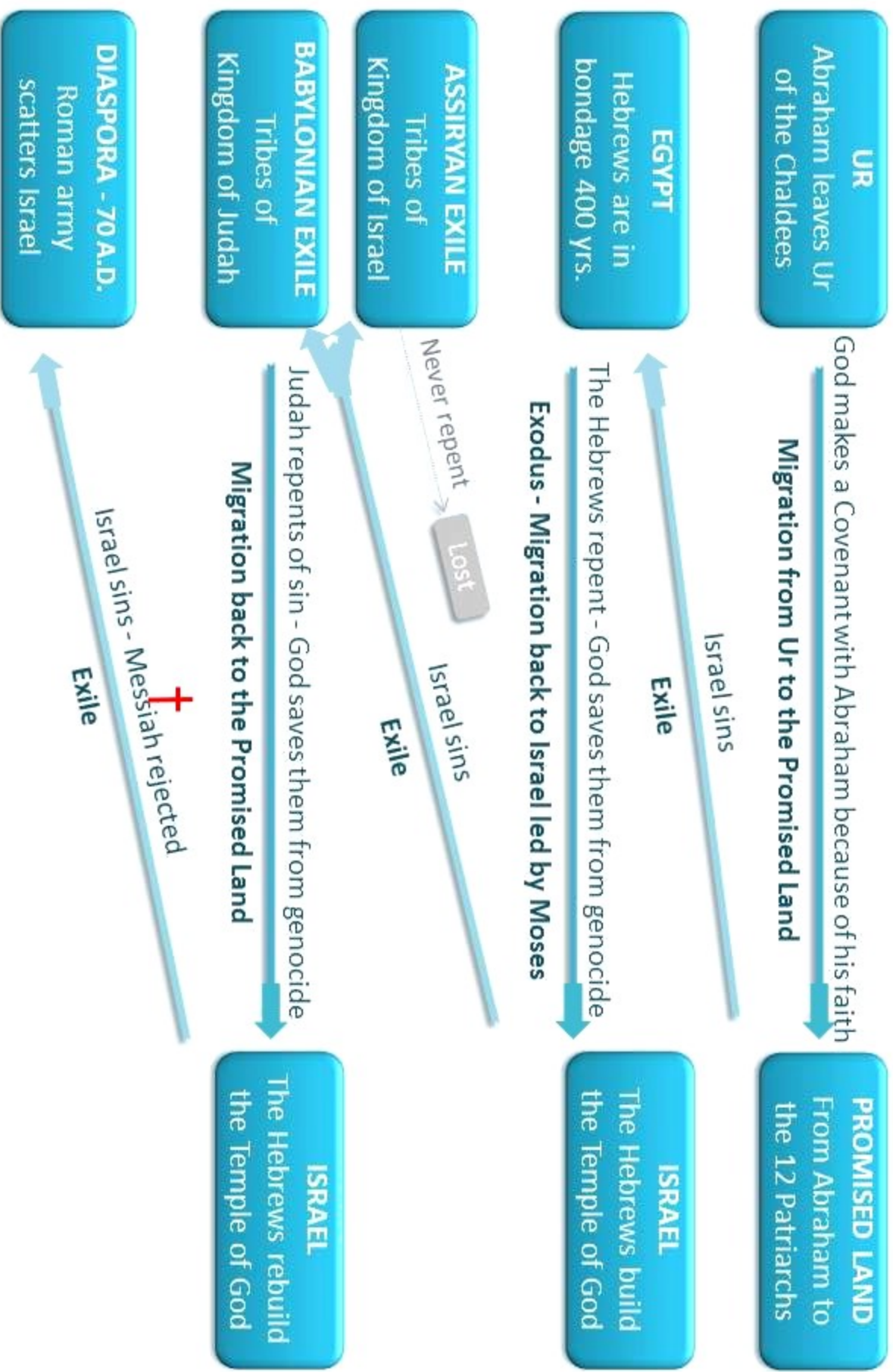
SILENCE between OT and NT



# JOHN MACARTHUR STUDY BIBLE



# Pattern of the History of Israel



## EZEKIEL CHAPTER 8

### Abominations in the Temple

**1** In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.

**2** Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man. Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal. **3** He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. **4** And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.

**5** Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. **6** And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations."

**7** And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall. **8** Then he said to me, "Son of man, dig in the wall." So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance. **9** And he said to me, "Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here." **10** So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and

loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel. **11** And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up. **12** Then he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'" **13** He said also to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they commit."

**14** Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the LORD, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

**15** Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these."

**16** And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshipping the sun toward the east. **17** Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose. **18** Therefore I will act in wrath. 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."

## EZEKIEL CHAPTER 9

### Idolaters Killed

**1** Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."

**2** And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

**3** Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. **4** And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." **5** And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. **6** Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the house. **7** Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out." So they went out and struck in the city. **8** And while they were striking, and I was left alone, I fell upon my face, and cried, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you destroy all the remnant of Israel in the outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

**9** Then he said to me, "The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great. The land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice. For they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see.' **10** As for me, my eye

will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will bring their deeds upon their heads."

**11** And behold, the man clothed in linen, with the writing case at his waist, brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded me."

## CHAPTER 10

### The Glory of the LORD Leaves the Temple

**1** Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne. **2** And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city."

And he went in before my eyes. **3** Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. **4** And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD. **5** And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

**6** And when he commanded the man clothed in linen, "Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim," he went in and stood beside a wheel. **7** And a cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire that was between the cherubim, and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed in linen, who took it and went out. **8** The cherubim appeared to have the form of a human hand under their wings.

**9** And I looked, and behold, there were four wheels beside the cherubim, one beside each cherub, and the appearance of the wheels was like sparkling beryl. **10** And as for their appearance, the four had the same likeness, as if a wheel were within a wheel. **11** When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went, but in whatever direction the front wheel faced, the others followed without turning as they went. **12** And their whole body, their rims, and their spokes, their wings, and the wheels were full of eyes all around—the wheels that the four of them had. **13** As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing “the whirling wheels.” **14** And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was a human face, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

**15** And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal. **16** And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them. **17** When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them.

**18** Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. **19** And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

**20** These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the Chebar canal; and I knew that they were cherubim. **21**

Each had four faces, and each four wings, and underneath their wings the likeness of human hands. **22** And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the Chebar canal. Each one of them went straight forward.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### ***Judgment on Wicked Counselors***

**1** The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east. And behold, at the entrance of the gateway there were twenty-five men. And I saw among them Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. **2** And he said to me, “Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and who give wicked counsel in this city; **3** who say, ‘The time is not neara to build houses. This city is the cauldron, and we are the meat.’ **4** Therefore prophesy against them; prophesy, O son of man.” **5** And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, “Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind. **6** You have multiplied your slain in this city and have filled its streets with the slain. **7** Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of it, they are the meat, and this city is the cauldron, but you shall be brought out of the midst of it. **8** You have feared the sword, and I will bring the sword upon you, declares the Lord GOD. **9** And I will bring you out of the midst of it, and give you into the hands of foreigners, and execute judgments upon you. **10** You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel, and you shall know that I am the LORD. **11** This city shall not be your cauldron, nor shall you be the meat in the midst of it. I will judge you at the border of Israel, **12** and you shall know that I am the LORD.

For you have not walked in my statutes, nor obeyed my rules, but have acted according to the rules of the nations that are around you.”

**13** And it came to pass, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell down on my face and cried out with a loud voice and said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?”

Israel’s New Heart and Spirit

**14** And the word of the LORD came to me: **15** “Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, ‘Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.’ **16** Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.’ **17** Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’ **18** And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. **19** And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, **20** that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. **21** But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord GOD.”

**22** Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. **23** And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city. **24** And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles. Then the vision that I had seen went up from me. **25** And I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.