Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 351 – The Elders Before Me Through No Pity (Ezekiel 8:1-18)

1. Before being shown, through a vision, greater abominations; what did the Lord show Ezekiel about Jerusalem?

The image of jealousy at the inner gate or Jerusalem toward the north: *"(1) And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. (2) Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. (3) And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; <u>where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy</u>. (4) And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. (5) Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar <u>this image of jealousy in the entry</u>. (6) He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations"* (**Ezekiel 8:1-6**).

- The elders came to Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 14:1**; **20:1**), but such should not necessarily be considered "good" (**Ezekiel 33:30-33**). This is a lesson on how someone "coming" to hear doesn't mean they are listening to obey.
- A vision likened to **Revelation 1:9-15**
- A form of a hand (**Ezekiel 2:9** and **Daniel 5:5**).
- He was taken up by his hair by the Spirit to Jerusalem similar to what will happen later to another place in a vision (**Ezekiel 11:1**; **24**).
- The seat of the image of jealousy (**Jeremiah 7:30** and **Jeremiah 32:34**).
- Idolatry makes God jealous (**Exodus 20:1-5** and **Deuteronomy 6:14-15**).
- The Glory of God was there (**II Chronicles 5:1-14**) as in the plain (**Ezekiel 3:22-23**).
- He asked Ezekiel to observe Israel's great abominations. This is similar to God asking Jeremiah to observe and understand why he shouldn't have even prayed for the people (**Jeremiah 7:11-20**).
- Greater, and greater abominations still to be seen (**Ezekiel 8:7-17**).

2. What greater abominations did God show Ezekiel as he sent him through a door?

The practice of idolatry by 70 wherein they brazenly thought God could not see them: *"(7) And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. (8) Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. (9) And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. (10) So I*

© 2018 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.

went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. (11) And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. (12) Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth" (**Ezekiel 8:7-12**).

- They thought they could hide this from God (**Psalms 73:11** and **Isaiah 29:15**). That doesn't work (**I Chronicles 28:9**, **II Chronicles 16:9**, **Psalms 139:1-12**, **Proverbs 15:3**, **Jeremiah 23:24**, **Jeremiah 32:19**, **Hebrews 4:13**, and **Revelation 2:18-29**).

3. What did Ezekiel see as he turned yet again?

Women weeping for Tammuz [a false god; thought to be a Sumerian deity of food or vegetation (Strong's #8542)]: *"(13) He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. (14) Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz"* (**Ezekiel 8:13-14**).

- Their sins were exceeding great (**Ezekiel 9:9**).
- They added sin to sin (**Isaiah 30:1**).
- They wept for a false god because they had left the Lord and cleaved to these false gods (**Jeremiah 2:11**; **5:19**).
- They didn't cry for God. They didn't care for God. For consideration, realize that idolatry is not just limited to an image (ex. **Ephesians 5:5**). Do you weep for "things" and yet not relate to God?

4. What was being worshipped when Ezekiel was told to turn yet again?

The sun: *"(15) Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. (16) And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east"* (**Ezekiel 8:15-16**).

- Now Ezekiel is being shown those who were worshipping the sun (**Deuteronomy 4:15-19**, **Deuteronomy 17:1-7**, and **Jeremiah 8:1-3**).

© 2018 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.

5. Was it God's intention to give in to the cries of His people when He dealt with them in His fury?

No: *"(17) Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. (18) Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them"* (**Ezekiel 8:17-18**).

- Is it a light thing (cf. **I Kings 16:29-31**)?
- They filled the land with violence (**Jeremiah 22:17**, **Ezekiel 7:23**, and **Micah 2:2**).
- God's fury (**Jeremiah 7:20**; **21:5** and **Ezekiel 5:15**) without pity (**Jeremiah 13:1-14** and **Ezekiel 7:9**).

© 2018 This study was prepared for a Bible class with the Sunrise Acres church of Christ in El Paso, TX by Brian A. Yeager.