

- I) V1-4 INTRO: And it came to pass in the sixth year in the sixth month on the fifth day of the month
  - a) By way of introduction, this chapter introduces a new section of the book
    - 1) Chapters 8-11 all contain visions that the Lord gives to the prophet Ezekiel
  
- II) IN CH 3-7 EZEKIEL: Gave warnings of a coming judgment against Judah and Jerusalem
  - a) The visions contained in chapters 8-11 will apply to Jerusalem and what remains of Judah
    - 1) The visions we see in this chapter is a warning to the Jews in Babylon
    - 2) POINT: God is bringing judgment for their sins, and if they do not repent there will be a final and complete exile from the land of promise
  
- III) V1 AND IT: Came to pass in the sixth year in the sixth month on the fifth day of the month as I sat
  - a) Ezekiel carefully gives the date: it would be equivalent to Aug-Sept, 592 BC
    - 1) This would make it around fourteen months after the first vision mentioned in ch 1:1
  
- IV) EZEKIEL: Is at his home in Tel Abib with some of the elders of Judah seated before him
  - a) They may have wondered if he knew anything of what was occurring in Jerusalem
    - 1) As they are seated there, God moves on Ezekiel
  
- V) V2 THEN I LOOKED: And there was a likeness like the appearance of fire from the appearance of His
  - a) This is the Lord: he saw this earlier, described in ch 1:26-28
  
- VI) V3-5 HE STRETCHED OUT: The form of a hand and took me by a lock of my hair and the Spirit
  - a) A year earlier, Ezekiel had been commanded to shave his head (5:1), but his hair has grown
    - 1) The Lord picked him up by his hair, and spiritually he is transported to Jerusalem
    - 2) NOTICE: *and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem*
  
- VII) V3 HE SAW: The door of the north gate of the inner court where the seat of the image of jealousy was
  - a) He is at the entrance to the court of the priests and there he sees an idol
  
- VIII) KEY: It is called the image of jealousy because it provokes the Lord to jealousy
  - a) Ex 34:14 you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is Jealous, is a jealous God*
  - b) Dt 4:24 For the LORD your God *is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*
  
- IX) REMEMBER: God had chosen the nation of Israel, above all nations and loved them
  - a) They were His chosen people
    - 1) Dt 7:6-8 You are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His *love on you* nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD *loves you*, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
    - 2) He loved them, but they provoked Him to jealousy by pursuing idols
    - 3) THE FACT IS: He should have been worshiped instead of the idol that was there in the temple
  
- X) V6 FURTHERMORE: He said to me Son of man *do you see what they are doing the great abominations*
  - a) ABOMINATION: a disgusting thing
    - 1) In a ritual sense of unclean food, idols, mixed marriages; in an ethical sense, wickedness
  
- I) INTERESTINGLY: Notice how the Lord works with Ezekiel

- a) He says Do you see, you will see (3x's), go in and see, have you seen (3x's)
  - 1) This is a common question: Jeremiah, Amos, and Zechariah all were asked What do you see
  
- II) IN THIS CASE: Ezekiel needs to see what the Lord sees
  - a) God lifts the veil for a moment and allows Ezekiel to see the things that break His heart
    - 1) God sees all the wickedness, and it grieves Him and provokes Him
    - 2) In order for Ezekiel to preach with passion, he needs to see what tears at the heart of God
  
- III) TO PREACH WITH SINCERE PASSION: Requires separation from the sins being practiced
  - a) When the things the world is caught up in actually lose their allure, you can speak with power
    - 1) God wants Ezekiel to see the evil that permeates Israel, and actually is in the temple
  
- IV) V7-8 SO: He brought me to the door of the court and when I looked there was a hole in the wall
  - a) The first thing that Ezekiel is led to see is a cult of elders of Israel, who are secret idolaters
    - 1) He is taken to the wall, and has to dig in to it, and finds a door: they are hiding their sin
  
- V) IDOLATRY: Is taking place in the temple
  - a) Now he sees the elders as they are worshiping: the temple is filled with idolatry
    - 1) We have seen some of these idols, and some were naked human forms (fertility)
  
- VI) KEY: This is what they were doing when they were in Egyptian bondage
  - a) The ten plagues that were sent on Egypt were actually judgments on their false gods
  - b) Ex 12:12 I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.
    - 1) Water into blood (7:17) – against the false god Nilus, the sacred river god.
    - 2) Frogs (8:6) – against Hekt, the false goddess of reproduction
    - 3) Lice (gnats) (8:17) – against Seb, the false god of the earth
    - 4) Flies (beetles) (8:24) – against Khephera, the sacred scarab
    - 5) Murrain (plague) on Egyptian cattle (9:3) – against Apis and Hathor, the sacred bull and cow
    - 6) Boils on man and beast (9:10) – against Typhon, the evil-eye false god
    - 7) Hail (9:23) – against Shu, the false god of the atmosphere
    - 8) Locusts (10:14) – against Serapis, the false protector from locusts
    - 9) Darkness (10:22) – against Ra, the sun false god
    - 10) Death of the first-born of man and beast (11:5) – against Ptah, the false god of life
  
- VII) V11 THE HEART OF ISRAEL: Had sunken to base idolatry, and these elders revealed what they worshiped
  - a) In earlier days, God had appointed seventy leaders who had the duty of guarding against idolatry
    - 1) Nu 11:16-17 The LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put *the same* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear *it* yourself alone.
  
- VIII) V11 IN THEIR MIDST: Stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan
  - a) He was the son of a respected scribe, who read the bible to Josiah (2 Ki 22:8-11) leading to revival
    - 1) This reveals how low the leadership of Israel had sunk
  
- I) V12 THEN: He said to me Son of man have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark

- a) They thought they could get away with this, as if God did not see what they did in their rooms
  - 1) Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
  
- II) V13-14 AND: He said to me Turn again and you will see greater abominations that they are doing
  - a) To my dismay, women were there weeping for Tammuz
    - 1) A deity among ancient Babylonians, equivalent to the Greek god Adonis, god of vegetation
    - 2) Tammuz was the god of spring vegetation: the women would mourn when it became hot so that he would come back to life
    - 3) TAMMUZ: The fourth month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year corresponding with our July
  
- III) POINT: was a combination of nature worship and sexual immorality
  - a) Idolatry found its way of expression through sexual license
    - 1) When you worship nature, you will also worship sexual expressions
    - 2) This is because you worship the creation, and not the Creator
  
- IV) THIS EXPLAINS WHY: You will see pro-abortionists attacking Japanese whaling vessels
  - a) They will champion animal rights and abortion rights at the same time
    - 1) Some believe that this form of worship was a way for women to have a sense of liberation
    - 2) Ezekiel was horrified when he saw these women worshiping Tammuz (Mardi Gras)
    - 3) BARNA: 18-25 age group: 38% said they had illicit sex last week, and 33% viewed porn
  
- V) V15-16 THEN: He said to me Have you seen this O son of man Turn again you will see greater
  - a) These men were priests who were, in the most Holy place worshiping the sun
    - 1) These men represented the 24 divisions of priests in Israel, and the High Priest
    - 2) This was a complete rejection of the God of Israel, Creator of all things
  
- VI) THE SUN: Is intended to manifest to glory of God in creation
  - a) Think of how beautiful a warm spring morning is
    - 1) Ps 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.
  
- VII) V17-18 AND: He said to me Have you seen this O son of man Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah
  - a) FINALLY: God says their idolatry has resulted in violence in the land
    - 1) When spiritual leaders worship God, love is what the nation experiences
  
- VIII) GOD SAYS: I will judge them
  - a) If they will not receive His love and mercy, then they will receive His wrath