

## Hidden from the Storm

**Text: Ezekiel 9:1-11** 1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. 2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. 3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; **4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.** 5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: 6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. **Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.** 7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. 8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? 9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. 10 And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head. 11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

**I Peter 4:17-18** For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 **And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?**

**Introduction: The Bible teaches that the Judgements of God can be SEVERE & UNFORGIVING TOWARD THE WICKED (YET), MERCIFUL & KIND TOWARD HIS PEOPLE**

**Psalms 145:17-20** The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. 18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. 19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. 20 **The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.**

**1. The WORD “WRATH” is found 469 times in the KJV of the Bible. Some OT examples of God’s Wrath are as follows:**

- *The Great Flood (Genesis 6)*
- *Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)*
- *The Plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7)*
- *The destruction of Pharaoh’s Army in the Red Sea (Exodus 14)*
- *The earthquake that swallowed-up Korah and his fellow rebels (Numbers 16)*
- *The death angel that killed 185,000 Assyrian Soldiers (II Kings 19)*
- *Many other examples too numerous to mention*

**2. In the New Testament – God’s Wrath is mentioned 16 times – BUT, there are 112 verses on HELL (the eternal place of God’s wrath upon the wicked)**

**\*\*John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; **but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

**A few examples of immediate judgement in the New Testament are as follows:**

- *The immediate and sudden death of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)*
- *The immediate and sudden death of King Herod (Acts 12)*

- *The blinding of Elymas, the sorcerer (Acts 13)*
- *The Future Judgements of Revelations*
  - *7 seals of judgement; 7 trumpets of judgement; and 7 vials of judgement*
  - *The Judgement on the Kingdom of Babylon the great*
  - *The Judgement on the Woman dressed in Scarlet*
  - *The Judgement on the throne of the Beast (Revelations 16:10)*
  - *The Judgment at Armageddon*
  - *The Great White Throne Judgement*

**Matthew 3:7 JOHN the BAPTIST** - ...when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, *who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

**I. Although there are many examples OF GOD’S JUDGEMENTS, in this sermon we only want to FOCUS our ATTENTION on TWO EXAMPLES:**

- ❖ *One is from the past - THE FALL OF JERUSALEM to BABYLON (587 BC)*
- ❖ *One is in the future – OUR OWN (date unknown)*

**II. First, we want to look at The Fall of Jerusalem (587 BC) (over 2600 years ago). Hopefully, we can learn a few things to help us better prepare for our own appointed time when we will be summons to appear before God, our Creator.**

- a. *God Brought Judgement upon Jerusalem because of the WICKEDNESS of SIN – years & years of sin!*
- b. *The Fall of Jerusalem (587 BC) was about 135 years after the Fall of the Kingdom of Israel (722 BC)*
- c. *Ezekiel (623–571 BC) was a Priest/Prophet for the Kingdom of Judah (many bible historians say Ezekiel died in Babylon??)*
- d. *Jeremiah (650-570 BC) and Ezekiel worked for God at about the same time (many bible historians say Jeremiah died in Egypt??)*
- e. *Jeremiah was imprisoned off and for many years by the king of Judah but was released and set free after Jerusalem fell by the king of Babylon*
- f. *Ezekiel was carried away into Babylonian before Jerusalem was finally destroyed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> great siege*
- g. *Ezekial was physically picked-up by God and transported from Babylon to Jerusalem for the vision of our TEXT*
- h. *The Vision was about the SOON DESTRUCTION of JERUSALEM in the 3<sup>rd</sup> siege*

**III. EVENTS IN THE VISION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM WHICH ARE COMMON ELEMENTS IN ALL OF GOD’S PAST JUDGEMENTS:**

- (1) **God ALWAYS Separates TRUE BELIEVERS from the Wicked in Judgement.** Although hidden from the Human Eye, GOD sees the righteous and always protects them prior to the start of judgement. **Proverbs 11:21** Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

- (2) **God’s People are either removed or MARKED for safe keeping by GOD prior to Judgement:** **Ezekiel 9:4** *And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

**COMMENTARY -- (ref: ENDURING WORD COMMENTARY - <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/ezekiel-9/>)**

God commanded the one with the inkwell to **mark** the righteous men of the city. **Ezekiel 9:6** shows this was a *protective* identification, to protect them in the coming invasion. It shows that even when judgment comes upon an entire nation, God still knows how to mark and identify the righteous.

Like the blood on the doorposts of the Israelites’ houses on the night of the Passover (**Exodus 12**) and the scarlet cord in Rahab’s window (**Joshua 2:18–21; 6:22–25**), it was a sign of hope.” (Block)

**EXAMPLE--Revelation 7:1-3** And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

(3) **God is searching for ONE DISTINGUISHING CRY from His People:**

**Ezekiel 9:4** ... *set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

**Proverbs 29:2** When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

**COMMENTARY:** (ref: **ENDURING WORD** <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/ezekiel-9/>)  
The remnant God would spare **had nothing to do with age or perceived innocence**. The remnant were those who had broken hearts over the idolatry and wickedness of the city, men like Jeremiah.

- **The men who sigh:** “[Sigh], where the moaning will be a symptom of a broken heart and intense grief over impending doom. Here the scribe is to search for individuals who will display a similar emotion over all the abominations being perpetrated in Jerusalem.” (Block)
- Let us mourn in time of sinning: so shall we be marked in times of punishing.” (Trapp)
- **Amid scenes of judgment, whether in the Church or the world, there is always a remnant, upon whom is the mark; on Lot in Sodom; on Israel amid the plagues of Egypt; on Rahab in the fall of Jericho; on the 144,000 at the Great Tribulation. They are safe amid the fiery indignation which devours the adversaries.”** (Meyer)

(4) **Judgement Begins at the TOP (the Highest Position in the Temple or Church)**

**Ezekiel 9:6** Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. **Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.**

(5) **Once Judgment Starts – Nothing can Alter or STOP the Execution of God’s WRATH**

**Ezekiel 9:8-10** And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that **I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?** Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. **And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.**

IV. **Closing – Briefly, Our OWN Future Judgement**

**I Peter 4:7-18** For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And **if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?**

**II Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

*Illustration: Our time on earth can be compared to a doctor’s appointment (except our appointment with God is far more important than a doctor’s visit). Throughout our life on earth, we spend our time in earth’s “waiting room.” We are taught by the Bible and know inwardly that we have an appointment with God but we do not know exactly when He will call us. We will go, as all others before us have gone, but we do not know when. Due to the eternal consequences of this appointment, we should live our entire life on earth getting ready for our own personal appointment!*

**I Corinthians 3:11-15** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble**; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire

**Briefly, I want to speak about ... if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?**

- 1) *Sadly, some won't have much of a reward after Judgement ... wood, hay, stubble*

**II Corinthians 3:15** If any man's work shall be burned, **he shall suffer loss**: but he himself shall be saved; **yet so as by fire**

**Matthew 5:19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the **least in the kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven**.

- 2) *If the righteous are scarcely saved (barely saved) ...where will our lost loved ones stand?  
If we are barely saved, our own Spiritual Failures WILL GREATLY affect the ETERNAL FUTURE  
of many of Loved Ones! They did not see enough of God in us to interest them in following us???*

**SADLY, we may make it by the skin of our teeth ... but what about them???**

- 3) **NOW, Before WE are called in and Judged – WE can ALTER/CHANGE our BAD RECORD  
We can Get it Right! God offers repentance and restoration for those who seek Him under  
grace! There is time now but not during our appointed judgement!**

**Revelation 2:5** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

**II Peter 1:4-11** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**