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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church  
Willow, Alaska**

**Date: September 04, 2016**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 11.01-25**

**Text: Ezekiel 11.01-25**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Wrath against the lying  
princes; promise to spare the remnant; restoration to  
the land; departure of the glory of the God of Israel**

Let us remember that the prophet Ezekiel is in the land of Judah's captivity – in Babylon. He has, in the preceding chapters, seen visions of the judgment of the LORD upon both Israel and Judah. The prophet was singularly blessed in that he saw visions of God and was empowered of the Spirit to prophesy to a nation which would not hear him. Now we come to the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter where we shall see the Lord's wrath against the lying princes of Judah; His promise to spare the remnant; the restoration of Israel to their land; and the departure of the glory of the God of Israel to the Mount of Olives of the east side of Jerusalem.

### **Part 1 – Vision of Wrath against the lying princes (1-13).**

***1 Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.***

The spirit lifted up Ezekiel and brought him to the east gate of the LORD's house which looked toward the east. What did he see there? He saw twenty-five men. Among these twenty-five were Jaazaniah the son of Azur. There are other men in the OT named Jaazaniah, but this one is the son of Azur of whom we know nothing except what is written here. The same can be said of Pelatiah the son of Benaiah. These were princes of the people – leaders and rulers.

***2 Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city:***

The LORD showed Ezekiel that these men were the ones who devised mischief – and gave wicked counsel or advice to the city.

***3 Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh.***

And what did these men say to the city? It is not near! What is not near? The destruction of the city, so their advice was to build houses. By use of the expression "this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh," it is a scoff or taunt against the prophecy of Jeremiah who had prophesied of the coming invasion from the north. We read this is Jeremiah, chapter 1:

**Jeremiah 1:13-14** *And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. 14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.*

**4 Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man.**

The LORD is longsuffering and again and again sent his prophets to speak to His covenant people to warn them. Now God directs Ezekiel to prophesy against these wicked men.

**5 And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them. 6 Ye have multiplied your slain in this city, and ye have filled the streets thereof with the slain.**

In these two verses, we see the message given the prophet as he was empowered by the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of the LORD. It is a message from the LORD intended for the princes. “For I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.” Let us all always remember that not even our thoughts are hidden from the LORD. He sees them, even afar off.

**Psalm 139:2** *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*

These twenty-five men thought that their inner reasonings were hidden from the LORD, but they were wrong. He understood them altogether and now would judge them for those thoughts. We ought to take a lesson from this. The very thoughts and intents of our hearts shall come out in the day of judgment:

**1 Corinthians 4:5** *Therefore judge nothing* [meaning whether or not our works before God are worthy of reward] *before*

*the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

Ezekiel's message would continue toward these men with these words from the LORD: "Ye have multiplied your slain in this city, and ye have filled the streets thereof with the slain." These men, princes of Judah, have been given much and now the sin is laid to their charge. Unto whom much is given, much shall be required!

***7 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they are the flesh, and this city is the caldron: but I will bring you forth out of the midst of it.***

***8 Ye have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord GOD.***

***9 And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you.***

***10 Ye shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

***11 This city shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; but I will judge you in the border of Israel: 12 And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you.***

***13 And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?***

### **Part 2 – The promise to spare the remnant (14-16).**

***14 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 15 Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession.***

***16 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.***

**Part 3 – Israel to be restored to the land and given a new heart and spirit (17-21).**

***17 Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.***

***18 And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.***

***19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.***

***21 But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.***

**Part 4 – Vision of the departure of the glory from Jerusalem (22-25).**

**22** *Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and **the glory of the God of Israel** was over them above.*

**23** *And **the glory of the LORD** went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.*

**Let us remember that the glory of the LORD had been given to Israel when the temple of Solomon was completed – just as it had in the tabernacle in the wilderness.**

**1 Kings 8:5-11** *And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude. **6** And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims. **7** For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above. **8** And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day. **9** There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. **10** And it came to pass, when the priests were*

*come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, **11** So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.*

**The glory of the LORD is not mentioned again in this book until the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter. Chapters 40-42 speak of the new temple and in the first of the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter we see the glory of the LORD return to the eastern gate of the Millennial Temple.**

**Ezekiel 43:1-5** *Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: **2** And, behold, the **glory of the God of Israel** came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. **3** And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. **4** **And the glory of the LORD** came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. **5** So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, **the glory of the LORD filled the house.***

**The glory of the LORD filled the house – this is called the house of the LORD in chapter 44. From our studies in this marvelous book, we have concluded that the LORD shall come to the eastern gate of the new temple, then the gate shall be shut. Let us notice more scripture regarding this eastern gate.**



**Ezekiel 44:1-4** *Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. **2** Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; **because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.** **3** It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same. **4** Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, **behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face.***

**24** *Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.*

**25** *Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shewed me.*