

Week 3 Student Study Guide

Title: The Temple Corrupted & the Glory Departs

Primary Text: Ezekiel 8–11 (KJV)

Historical & Literary Context

Ezekiel 8–11 records a visionary journey back to Jerusalem while Ezekiel remains physically in exile. God reveals the hidden spiritual corruption within the Temple itself. What the people believe to be secure is, in reality, already abandoned. These chapters explain why judgment is unavoidable: worship has become polluted, leadership corrupt, and God's presence dishonored.

Theological Exposition

The central theological theme of Ezekiel 8–11 is the departure of the glory of the LORD. Idolatry within the Temple represents covenant betrayal at the highest level. God's holiness cannot coexist indefinitely with unrepentant corruption. The gradual movement of God's glory demonstrates divine patience—judgment follows withdrawal, not impulse.

Yet within this devastating vision, God introduces hope. He promises to become a sanctuary for the exiles and to give His people a new heart and spirit. Presence shifts from building to people, preparing the theological foundation for later restoration.

Key Verses for the Week (KJV)

- 1 Ezekiel 8:1
- 2 Ezekiel 8:6
- 3 Ezekiel 8:12
- 4 Ezekiel 9:4
- 5 Ezekiel 9:6
- 6 Ezekiel 10:4
- 7 Ezekiel 10:18
- 8 Ezekiel 11:1
- 9 Ezekiel 11:5
- 10 Ezekiel 11:16
- 11 Ezekiel 11:17
- 12 Ezekiel 11:19
- 13 Ezekiel 11:20
- 14 Ezekiel 11:22
- 15 Ezekiel 11:23

Memory Verse

Ezekiel 11:19 (KJV): "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you..."

New Testament Cross-Text Mapping

• Matthew 23:37–38 – Jesus declares the house left desolate. • John 2:19–21 – Jesus identifies Himself as the true Temple. • Acts 7:48–50 – God does not dwell in temples made with hands. • Romans 2:28–29 – True worship is inward, of the heart. • 1 Corinthians 3:16–17 – Believers as God's dwelling place.

Contemporary & Spiritual Application

Ezekiel 8–11 confronts believers with the danger of external religion divorced from internal devotion. God's presence is not sustained by tradition alone but by holiness and obedience. These chapters call modern believers to examine whether worship practices reflect genuine allegiance or spiritual complacency.

Discussion Questions

- 1 Why does God reveal hidden idolatry rather than public sin first?
- 2 What does the gradual departure of God's glory teach about divine patience?
- 3 How does Ezekiel's promise of a new heart prepare for New Testament theology?
- 4 What warnings does this passage offer to modern faith communities?