

"Wicked Worship"
Ezekiel 8

Note: Chapters 8-11 form one long vision that Ezekiel sees.

Chapter 8 describes the _____ worship found in Jerusalem and the reason that it is destroyed. Cp. 7:20-22.

Chapter 9 describes the symbolic _____ of the righteous for safety and the slaying of the rest.

Chapter 10 describes the _____ of Jerusalem and the glory of the Lord getting ready to depart the Temple.

Chapter 11 describes the wicked leaders of Jerusalem, the future _____ of the tribes and Jerusalem, and the _____ of the Lord departing.

v.1 Q. What is the time frame of this new vision? Cp. 1:2

A.

Q. Where was Ezekiel and who was he with?

A.

Q. What happened to him there?

A.

Note: The Hebrew word for "came" in this verse is "*Naphal*" and means "_____" It communicates something suddenly, like an attack from an _____. In Ezekiel, it is only used in this verse.

v. 2 Q. What does Ezekiel see?

A.

1. (v. 2a) Cp. 1:26.

2. (v. 2b) Cp. 1:27

Note: This seems to be the same person that he saw in 1:26-27 –
_____ (Christophany); same descriptive language.

v. 3a Q. What did this person do?

A.

v. 3b Q. What other person entered the vision and what did he do?

A. Cp. 2:2

Note: There are some who believe that this was a _____
transportation, but it denies the prior point that this is a vision.

Q. What does this tell you about the distinctive nature of the Holy Spirit
in the Godhead?

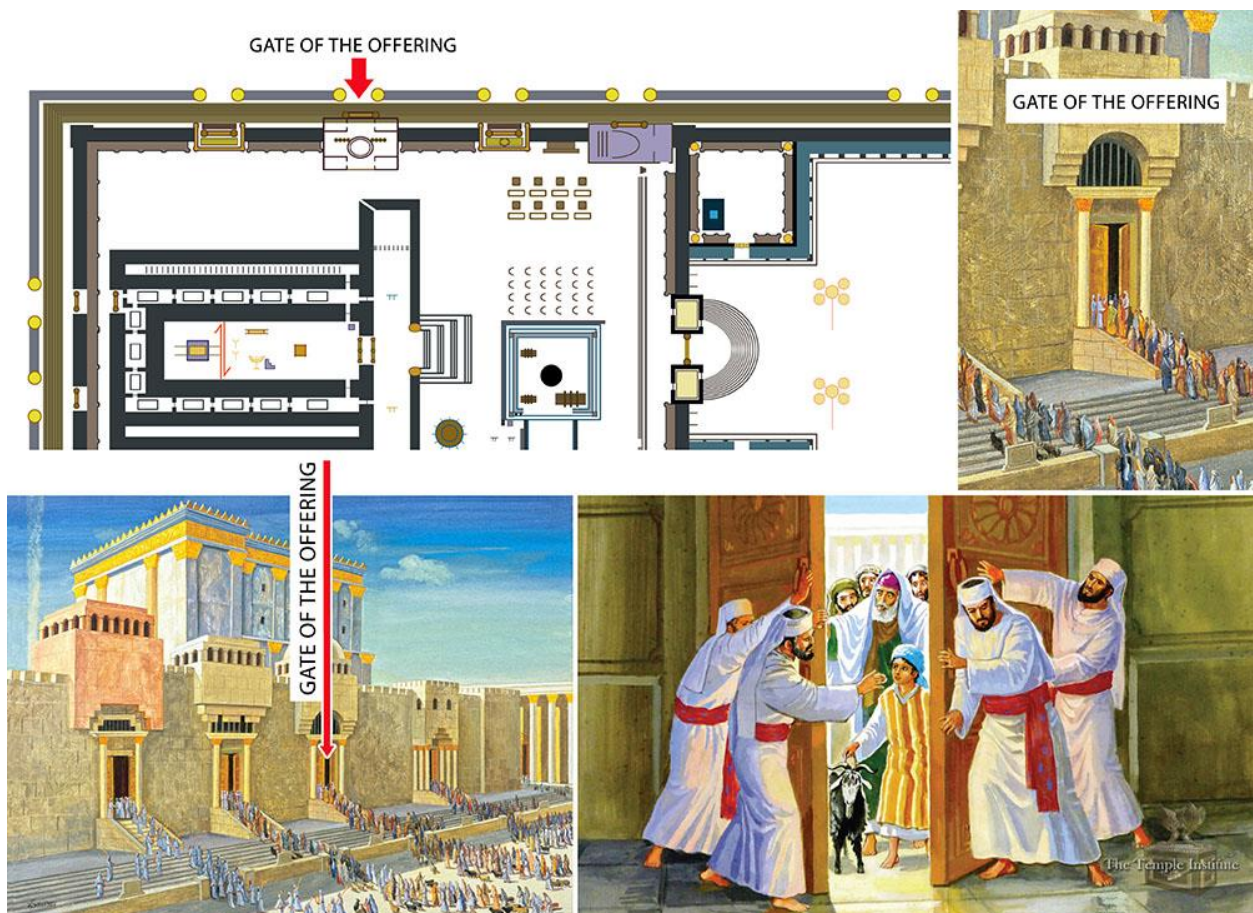
A.

Q. Where did Ezekiel go?

A.

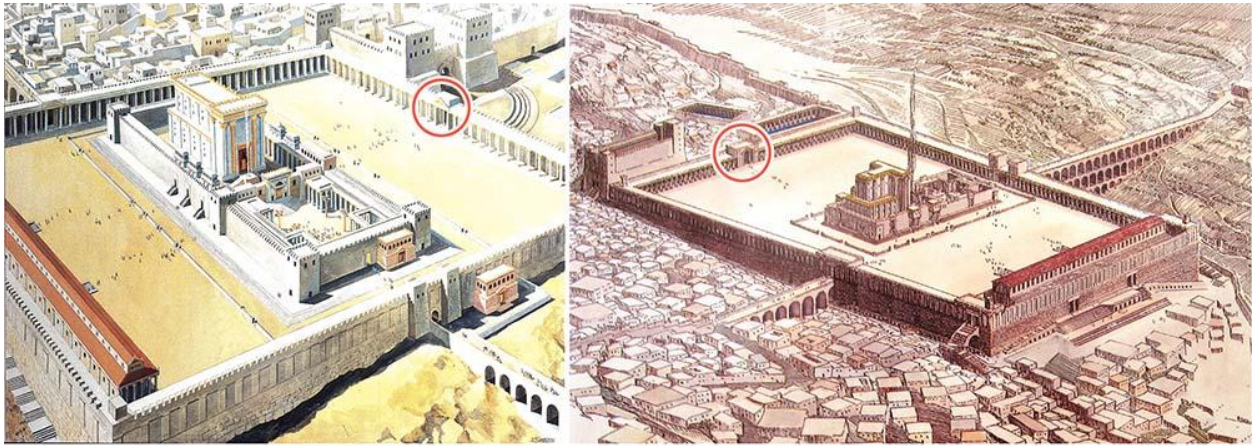
Q. What is important about the location?

A. This gate, leading from the _____ to the _____ court (the court of the priests), is called in Ezekiel 8:5 “the gate of the _____” or the “gate of the offering” because it was from this side that the priests approached the brass altar. The prophet is on the “outside” of this gate, so that the “image of jealousy” was set up in the outer or _____ court over against the northern entrance to the priest's court.

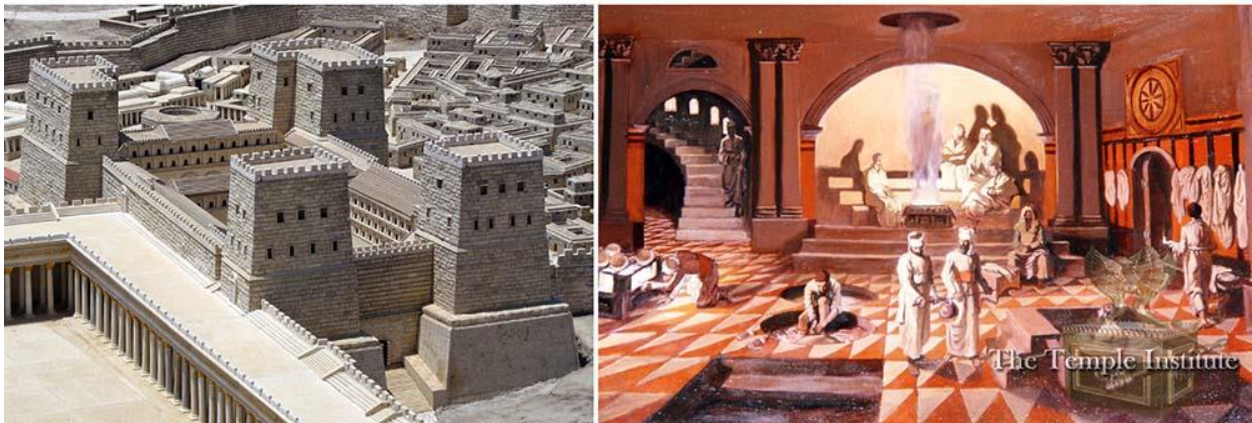


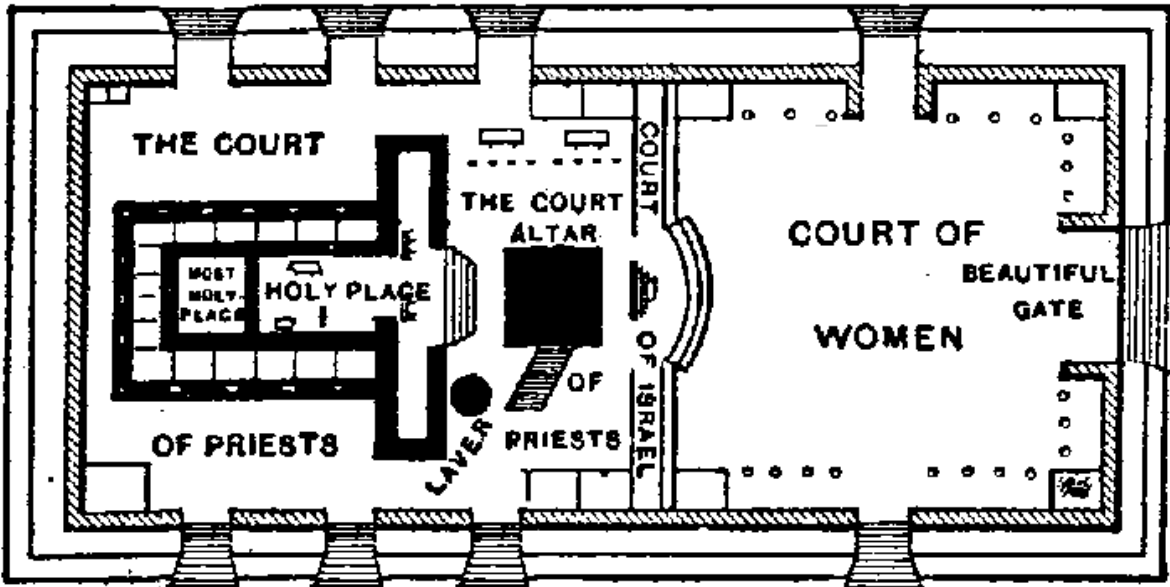
Note: “The _____ Gate was the northern gate, one of the five gates of the Temple Mount. It was located next to the _____ Fortress, built by Herod for protecting the Holy Temple. This gate did not serve as an entrance or exit for pilgrims but was used exclusively by Temple *kohanim* who had become

_____ and therefore was situated in the north, closest to the Place of the Hearth and the Priests' Immersion Chamber. From there the *kohanim* would exit through a special tunnel directly to this gate. There are those who opine that the name was not Tadi but Tari, which indicates the gate's special lintel built from two stones, one leaning on the other, together forming a triangle - "tri" in Greek. (Source: Tractate Midot 2:3 [commentary]). Like all the gates of the Holy Temple, the Tadi Gate was twenty cubits high and ten cubits wide. The interior side of the gate had the same level of sanctity as the Temple Mount." This gate would also have been the gate that the _____ would have used to enter the courtyard since his palace was located in the north.



TOP PICTURES: RED CIRCLE MARKS TADI GATE ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT.
 BOTTOM LEFT: THE ANTONIO FORTRESS. BOTTOM RIGHT: THE CHAMBER OF THE HEARTH RITUAL BATHS.





Q. What stood outside the gate to the inner chamber?

A.

Q. What is this?

A.

Note: Some scholars believe that it may have been an _____ pole that was set up under King Manasseh (2 Kings 21:3, 7) but destroyed under King Josiah. Jeremiah may have referenced this when he cited the "_____" (Jer. 7:18; 44:17-30) Others believe that it was Baal. And yet others, perhaps more accurately surmise that it was _____ or Adonis. Adonis was the young lover of Venus/Astarte/Aphrodite. Mars, her other lover, was "jealous" and sent a wild board to kill Adonis. And so, the connection. Tammuz, as we shall discuss later, is what is known as an archetypal "dying-and-rising" god for he was said to have become immortal after his death.

The word, "jealous" infers that whatever this was it was akin to spiritual _____ or prostitution.

Regarding God as jealous, read:

Exodus 20:5

Exodus 34:14

v. 4 Q. In contrast, what did Ezekiel see?

A. Cp. Chpts. 1-2

v. 5 Q. What is Ezekiel called to do?

A. He is called to look _____ and see this idol standing in the courtyard. It's almost as if the _____ powers tried to catch the worshippers before they came to the proper place of bringing their sacrifices.

v. 6a Q. What did the Lord ask him?

A. He asked Ezekiel if he "_____" this abomination. In other words, he was asking Ezekiel to be a _____ against the Jewish people – making the case as to why he was judging them.

Q. What was it doing to the Lord?

A.

v. 6b Q. What else did the Lord say to Ezekiel?

A.

v. 7a Q. Where does the Lord bring him?

A.

v. 7b Q. What does Ezekiel see?

A.

Note: All along the wall of the outer courtyard at the wall of the inner courtyard, on both north and south sides were separated _____, closed off rooms for storage and such.

v. 8a Q. What did God ask Ezekiel to do?

A.

v. 8b Q. What did Ezekiel see?

A.

v. 9 Q. What did God instruct him to do?

A.

v. 10 Q. What did Ezekiel see?

A.

Note: This was probably the animal and animal/human representations of the gods of _____, e.g. the ox, the falcon (Horace, Ra), the dog (Anubis), the ape, the ibis (Thoth), the crocodile, and the beetle (scarab).

Q. Read Romans 1: 21-25. How does this relate?

A.

v. 11a Q. What made this worse?

A.

1.

2.

Note: Jaazaniah's family had been faithful to the Lord under King _____ (2 Kings 22:3) and one of his brothers was a defender of _____ (Jer. 26:24). This speaks of how far the people of Israel had left the one true God. And yet, this is still being done in secret.

v.11b 3.

Read Exodus 30:7-8

v. 12a Q. What did the Lord say to Ezekiel after seeing this?

A.

Note: God is trying to open Ezekiel's eyes to the _____ of why God is doing things that to the average person seems to be so cruel.

v.12b Q. What were the elders saying?

A.

1.

2.

Q. These two statements form one thought. What is it?

A.

Q. Read Psalm 14/53. How does a true Hebrew understanding of these chapters connect with this saying?

A.

v. 13 Q. What is the surprising statement that God makes?

A.

v. 14 Q. Where did the Lord take him next?

A.

Q. What did Ezekiel see?

A.

Note: As mentioned before, this was a “dying and rising” god of _____. Tammuz, or in Greek, Adonis, was the lover of Astarte/Diana, and supposedly she rescued him from the underworld. He was lamented every summer/fall as things died and worshipped every _____ as life came back to the earth. During this festival, women gave themselves over to the basest sexual practices.

v. 15 Q. What is the statement made in regard to this as well (cp. v. 13)?

A.

v. 16a Q. Where does take Ezekiel?

A.

Q. Where specifically does he point Ezekiel?

A.

Note: These could only be _____. Representing the 24 rotations plus the high priest. Cp. Revelation 4:4.

v. 16b Q. What were they doing?

A.

Note the progression:

1. Outer court [_____] – idol that caused jealousy
2. The secret chamber [_____] – Egyptian creatures
3. Court of the _____ – Tammuz; Babylonian god
4. Inner court [_____] – Worship of the Sun; eastern paganism/Zoroastrianism

Note the _____ that was seeking to destroy the faith:
Local paganism, Egyptian, Babylonian, and eastern paganism.

v. 17a Q. What was the key question asked of Ezekiel?

A.

v. 17b. Q. But what else?

A.

v. 17c. Q. What does this statement mean?

A.

v. 18 Q. What was the verdict given to Ezekiel?

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

Q. As we look at this chapter of Ezekiel, how might it help us to understand the past, present, and future judgments that God will bring upon us, our country, our world?

A.

Q. What might we equate to the following gods in our world?

A.

1. General things that make God jealous.

2. Egyptian animal worship

3. Tammuz

4. The Sun

Q. Do you think the Church, in general, has trivialized or even embraced the worship of other gods?

A.