**Ezekiel**

*God’s Judgment is Always Perfectly Just*

*Ezekiel 8*

Background

* God is so good that he provides the evidence to the exiles on His justification for the destruction of Jerusalem. YES, it was completely deserved.
* This vision is 14 months after the first vision (592 BC)
  + Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. (Ezek 1:1)
  + And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, *as* I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. (Ezek 8:1)

Promotion of an Image (v 1 – 6)

* At the entrance to the city
* Identity in something other than the LORD
  + Country
  + Job
  + Family
* What is the image that people see in our lives?

Ignoring Our God Given Conscience (v 7 – 12)

* The LORD doesn’t see us. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO DON’T SEE GOD!
* The LORD has forsaken us. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE FORSAKEN GOD!
  + 1 ¶ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (1 Tim 4:1-2)
  + Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: (Rom 1:24)
  + For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (Rom 1:26)
  + And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (Rom 1:28)
  + 17 ¶ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; (Eph 4:17-20)

Weeping for Tammuz (v 13 – 14)

* At the entrance to the temple
* The god of fertility and agriculture – promise of rich provision in the form of grain and sheep. Mythology has Tammuz beginning as a shepherd.
* Dies annually during the summer solstice when the weather turns hot and dry.
* His return marked the restoration of plenty.
* Later ritual involved women publicly weeping and crying out for the return of Tammuz.

Some claim that the story of Jesus was just a variation of the mythology of Tammuz.

* Tammuz/(Adonis/Osiris) was rescued from the underworld by a faithful lover.
  + Jesus was raised from the dead by Himself in conjunction with God.
* Tammuz/ died every year.
  + Jesus died only once.
* Tammuz death and rebirth brought life to agriculture.
  + Jesus’ death and resurrection brings life to our souls.

Worshipping the Wrong Son (Sun) (v 15 – 16)