

The Lord Leaves the Temple

Ezekiel 8 - 11

by Don Falkos

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Ezekiel was in his home in Babylon when suddenly the Lord God appeared and in a vision carried Ezekiel to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Lord showed the prophet many Israelite leaders worshiping idols in a secret place, thinking, "The Lord can't see us here." In public they continued the pretext of worshiping God, when in reality their devotion was given to false, foreign gods. Their duplicity was appalling. But there was more.

In the courtyard of the Temple and in the Temple itself, people were worshiping pagan idols. Some women were worshiping a Babylonian fertility god. And there were people turning their backs on the Lord to worship the sun.

The Lord said, "You see why I must distance myself from my own sanctuary."

Ezekiel spoke out against the rampant injustice that had arisen because of all the idol worship. He watched as armed foreigners swept through the city killing everyone who participated in or condoned the idol worship that was taking place. Those who had remained true to the Lord were spared.

The Lord said, "My people are removed from their homes and scattered among the nations. But I am in exile with them. I will never desert them. I will unite them and once again give them the land of Israel. I will put a new spirit in them, removing their hard heart and giving them a soft, loving heart. They will be my people, and I will be their god."

The appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord, God's throne-chariot, rose above the city and departed toward Babylon.