

## Ezekiel 11

### Clean Up Jerusalem

**Read Ezekiel 11:1-4:** We have been reading about how God's holy angels have been dispatched to Jerusalem to clean up the mess; and prepare for the long process of repurposing God's future capital on earth. The onsite angelic inspection for every resident of Jerusalem has already taken place (Ez. 8:16). God's people have been marked for recovery; and the defiant will be killed to stop this contagion. These people are supposed to be the spiritual leaders. If the powers of darkness can take down the church and leadership all of mankind will go down the drain.

It should be no mystery that some of the Muslim countries have targeted Israel and the USA to destroy. We have had a glance at how quickly things fall when the righteous voices are neutralized. Satan knows how to put mankind on a suicide path; while believing they are just doing their own thing.

God showed us how he was reading the priests minds and clearly seeing their idolatrous imaginations. One of the worst offenders was the temple grounds sun worship; led by 25 of the local leaders. God labeled this practice as somehow being even worse than the other idolatry taking place in the temple grounds. God is zooming in on this group of 25 local leaders who have their backs to the temple while worshipping the sun in this chapter.

*And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. (Deuteronomy 4)*

*Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 1)*

The priests and city leaders were leading people towards more idolatry. They are supposed to be core of society. They were telling people to rebuild their homes. This was as they were all about to be killed. The mind of man apart from God is foolish.

*<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. (Matthew 5)*

These leaders are just like false prophets. These sun-worshipping city leaders have colluded to tell the same story. They are telling people to not worry. Build your house. Things are secure. The truth is that all of these people were sitting in a pot like stew meat. God is telling Ezekiel to prophesy against these false leaders. They are leading the flock towards a cliff like the pied piper.

The false prophets had been telling the people all along about there was no need to repent for years. They even claimed that Jerusalem would prevail against Babylon. They proved to be totally wrong. This means that they are not prophets. It should have been suspicious when they called for the truthful prophets to be jailed or killed. False prophets tell us what we want to hear. It's just *bread and circus*. It's a *candy give away*, with no basis in reality. They tell of made up and imaginary values and ideas. We are getting more into a virtual reality ourselves. The bible advocates less indulgence; and more assistance. Nobody wants to hear a prophet tell them that they are lost and heading for death.

*But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ <sup>21</sup> And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ — <sup>22</sup> when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18)*

**Read Ezekiel 11:5-13:** We are echoing the same things that Ezekiel prophesied in chapter 5. The dead bodies will be piling up from starvation and disease; like a pot of stew. The city will be breached, and this secure place will be like open hunting season. God is telling those who plan on hunkering down that they will be killed outside the city walls. Some will escape, and they will be killed at the border.

Ezekiel is having a hard time with all of this loss. What would be left to rebuild? Who would survive such a thing?

## Another Chance to Return in 70 years

**Read Ezekiel 11:14-21:** Ezekiel is being told that, according to the Jews in Jerusalem, that there are now supposedly two classes of Judeans. Those who *patriotically* stayed behind are pridefully telling Ezekiel and other Jews in Babylon that they have essentially forfeited their homeland; and they won't return. God corrects that self-congratulatory thinking. God says Not so. He will call his people back home; and they will be idolatry free. He will also completely expunge any idolaters from the homeland. This is true. Today, the Jews are not into idolatry. God will change the heart of his people as they return to their homeland. They will come to walk in God's ordinances.

**Repatriation** in Israel continues. Now there is an increase in the messianic movement.

**Aliyah** is the process of immigrating to Israel, a right granted to individuals of Jewish descent under the Law of Return. This law, enacted in 1950 and amended in subsequent years, allows Jews and their descendants to return to their ancestral homeland and obtain Israeli citizenship. The term "Aliyah" literally means "ascent" in Hebrew, symbolizing the spiritual and physical elevation associated with returning to the Land of Israel. For many, making Aliyah is not just a legal procedure but a fulfillment of a historical and religious aspiration, reconnecting with their roots and becoming part of the vibrant Israeli society.

While the Law of Return provides a clear path for Jews and their descendants to gain Israeli citizenship, proving one's Jewish heritage can sometimes be challenging, especially in cases where traditional documents like birth or marriage certificates are missing or incomplete. This is where DNA testing comes into play.

## MESSIANIC GROWTH SINCE 1948

- In 1948, there were approximately ten million Jewish people around the world who had survived the Holocaust. About 600,000 were living in Israel. Of those, only 23 of them believed in Yeshua as their Messiah. There were some churches led by denominations and missionaries in Israel, but there were no Messianic congregations at all.
- In 1989 Israel's Jewish population had grown to 3.5 million, and by this point, the estimated number of believers had reached 1,200. There were now 30 congregations.

- By 1999 there were 4.8 million Jews living in Israel, 81 Messianic congregations and an estimated 5,000 believers.
- In 2017, 300 congregations were counted. It has become increasingly difficult to accurately identify the number of Jewish believers in Israel, but a conservative estimate is now 30,000.

God has used more than one diaspora (dispersion abroad) of God's chosen people to clean up the population for spiritual sustainability.

- God sent a very unspiritual family of 70 persons to Egypt for 400 years to become a nation. Then he sent them into the wilderness for 40 more years as the last crossover generation died. Once the unbelievers were all gone, God brought his people back into Canaan to conquer it. This was a cleansing of idolatry and independence from God.

<sup>37</sup> “*This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’* <sup>38</sup> “*This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles<sup>[1]</sup> to give to us,* <sup>39</sup> *whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,* <sup>40</sup> *saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’* <sup>41</sup> *And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.* <sup>42</sup> *Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: ‘Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?’* <sup>43</sup> *You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, And the star of your god Remphan, Images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.’* (Acts 7)

**Read Ezekiel 11:22-25:** Ezekiel's whirlwind tour is now concluding. He was very sad to see that there is literally nothing redeemable left in Jerusalem. It is a piece of fruit rotten to the core. He made the right decision to go to Babylon while this cleansing takes place. The exiled believers will have a chance to return. There is definitely a pattern throughout scripture, with people who have to be tested and cleansed over and over.