

NOTES

WHEN GOD LEAVES THE BUILDING

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EZEKIEL 8-10

Introduction

1. It's Because of _____

Example 1:

Example 2:

Example 3:

Example 4:

2. It Results in _____

3. It Happens _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. What could you do during the remaining days of the Lent season to prepare yourself for a deeper appreciation of Holy Week (Good Friday, Easter)?
2. Watch the Bible Project Ezekiel video (yes, a second time if you've already seen it) and make a list of 5 things you learned about Ezekiel, his historical context, or the themes of his book.
3. Read Ezekiel 8:1-6. Why does God detest idolatry (note the repetition of "detestable" throughout this chapter)? In his book, Counterfeit Gods, Tim Keller defines an idol as: anything more important to you than God; anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God; anything that you seek to give you what only God can give. What could (or has) become an idol in your life? Explain.
4. Bible scholars say that "idol of jealousy" (v.5) could also be translated as "idol of lust", and that it may be a reference to Asherah, the goddess of fertility/sex. Why do you think sex is such a common idol in today's culture?
5. Read Ezekiel 8:7-13. Offering incense to pictures of animals (that represented gods) was an Egyptian practice. Why were the Israelites drawn to Egypt? What are we tempted to look to for security today? (Keep in mind the various kinds of security: financial; relational; health; etc.) Why would it be foolish to put our trust in these gods?
6. Read Ezekiel 8:14, 15. Tammuz was the Babylonian god who controlled the seasons. He "died" during the dry season and had to be brought back to life by mourners, after which he would produce a successful harvest. What would be some signs that success and prosperity have become our idols?
7. Read Ezekiel 8:17, 18. The Israelites were not only guilty of idolatry, they also mistreated others (sometimes violently). Why would idolatry in our lives (i.e. the pursuit of false gods) impact our behavior toward people? Give some examples of what this might look like.
8. Read Ezekiel 9:1-6. What do the six men in Ezekiel's vision, who are armed with deadly weapons, represent? Why does idolatry lead to judgment/death? Read II Peter 3:9. What is God's desire for our lives? What would be some signs that we have repented of idolatry?
9. Read Ezekiel 10:4, 18, 19; 11:23. What does God's glory (i.e. the manifestation of his presence) do in these verses? What is the significance of that?
10. Read Judges 16:20 and recap the story that led up to this verse. What is so tragic about Samson's demise? How would you know if you were losing a sense of God's presence in your life? What should you do if that happens?