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Don't 'Do Your Own Thing' Too Long

There is a tragic and sure day of reckoning ahead

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Don't Do 'Your Own Thing' Too Long

In the 8th chapter of Ezekiel God showed Ezekiel in a vision just how idolatrous the Southern Kingdom had become. He revealed to Ezekiel in the vision four separate incidents of blatant idol worship. God had chided with the inhabitants of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) at one time, reproving them for doing what no self-respecting idol worshiper would do. God reminded them that the idolatrous nations around Judah would never consider leaving their own gods for those of another nation,

yet Judah had the effrontery to leave their only one real God – the God who had many, many times miraculously led them and fed them and fought for them – to go baying after a passel of gods of wood and stone that couldn't move or talk or burst themselves out of a wet paper sack!

We have done somewhat the same thing today in principle. We have forsaken the God who brought us to this land of the free – and some of us who were slaves until God freed us from the chains of oppression and bigotry – and we too are wildly chasing after the gods of silver and gold and wood and stone, the material possessions and wealth of this world. In both instances we have turned our backs on the God of our fathers for gods that can never help us when we really need help.

We have a rather fuzzy picture of our God when it comes to grace, which we say will flow forever. First off: This is not true for everyone, and it cannot be true if God is all that we say He is. If God is truly a God of justice and righteousness, he cannot forever endure the sins of a foolish majority of the creatures he created. Neither justice nor righteousness will tolerate such an eternity-long slap in the face of God. The God we – all of mankind – serve is, in addition to being longsuffering and kind to those who love Him, a God of wrath upon those who continually reject what He wants and what

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He tells them to do.

There are many examples of what an aroused God can and will do when we turn our backs on Him five, twenty, thirty years or as long as God will allow us to crucify Him with impunity. Wisdom or just plain old common sense should tell us that a perfect God will not forever co-exist with an imperfect world full of imperfect and impenitent creatures. That is why there is a day of judgment coming when the cup of the wrath of God will be filled to overflowing and it will splash in fiery judgment on the heads of the adamant, uncaring persons who refuse to heed the love of God and will in fact have none of God.

Are you yet unmoved by the alarming increase of sin and lawlessness all around you? Don't you care that sin's long tentacles are enveloping the earth, even reaching into the community of believers and grasping greedily after your brothers and sisters in the Lord? Aren't you greatly disturbed that those in the Church who you thought would not be affected by the enticements to carnal lusts and worldly glory are, sad to say, letting down their guard? They are dismantling the barriers the Spirit of God Himself has set between His children and the world. This is surely not good. It is wicked and dangerous to reject the one only true God in the midst of a wicked and dangerous people.

The visible church of today is far too similar to the Israelites of Ezekiel's time. They provoked God once and again with their wanderlust, worshiping one idolatrous abomination after another, never satisfied with what their lusts had already acquired. But God, as He always does

prior to judgment, has issued warning after warning to all who will listen, warning us that He will not long spare those who shake their head at God in what is at once a ridiculous and extremely perilous defiance.

The prophet Ezekiel received a word from God concerning the idolatrous Israelites of his day. Without much effort we can apply it to believers today. For your convenience of study I have divided Ezekiel's vision into four sections as follows. Please read it carefully.

A Clear Warning to God's Faithless Followers (Eze. 9.1-11)

1.

A Command for the *DESTRUCTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE!*

The imminent departure of God's Presence. Verse 9.3*

Eze 9:1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city [the Chaldean enemy] to draw near, even every man *with* his destroying weapon in his hand.

Eze 9:2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them *was* clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

* Eze 9:3 **And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house.** And he called to the man clothed with linen, which *had* the writer's inkhorn by his side;

2.

God's People Who Remain Faithful Will be Marked for Salvation

*God's Chosen ones will be they who "sigh and...cry" for the "abominations" committed by their brethren. Verse 9.4**

*Eze 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

3.

Destruction Falls on the Unfaithful Children of God

*Judgment falls on ALL who are not set aside (marked) for salvation. Verses 9.5-8**

*Verses 9.5-8

Eze 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Eze 9:6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house.

Eze 9:7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

Eze 9:8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

4.

Grace Will Finally Have Run Its Course for Those Who Refuse to be Corrected

*God declares "mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity..." V. 9.9-11**

*Verses 9.9-11

Eze 9:9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah *is* exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

Eze 9:10 And as for me also, **mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity**, *but* I will recompense their way upon their head.

Eze 9:11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which *had* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

Verse 11 indicates a completion of all that God had commanded. The obstinate adulterous Israelites – who are symbolic of the same unresponsive persons in the New Testament church – had all been slain and forever silenced in the fury of their just judgment. ∞



Figure 1 The Searing, Symbolic Flame of the Final Divine Judgment

“And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall do him service; and they shall see his face; and his name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These words are faithful and true: and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly come to pass. And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Rev 22:3-7