

**His writing is on the wall
for those who can hear:**

Ezekiel 8:1-3

Ezekiel 8:1 ¶ 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. 2 Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. 3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

God's word the bible teaches, that, when we worship anything other than God, God is jealous The evidence of this is what follows.

God who is a consuming fire, in His mercy and longsuffering, first opens the door of the gate for His own to see and to hear the warning of what provokes God to jealousy. And its not the pagan's out there in the world who know not God; but those who are called by His Name, who are accountable and responsible for declaring the truth of all of God's word to the unbelieving world.

God's warning through His prophets of impending destruction is almost totally missing with regards to the unbelieving world who know not God. Rather, His warning is almost always to those who God has made Himself known to through previous blessings and knowledge of His commandments, precepts, and testimonies, like ancient Israel, or, the New Testament church. God's faithful understand how the unfolding of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not confined to the Old Testament, and, nor is it confined to only the New Testament:

To begin, in, Deuteronomy 4:24, the word of God declares:

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

In, Ezekiel 8:1-3, the Lord is at the gate watching something that is provoking Him to jealousy and anger. In, Ezekiel 8, the word of the LORD continues regarding an image of jealousy in the entry of the gate, which illustrates the house of God where the messengers of God's word stand:

Ezekiel 8:4 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. 5 Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

Through God's Holy Word, the LORD seeks to expose what the messengers of God are doing upon the entrance of the gate, which is the house of God, that is provoking God to jealousy:

Ezekiel 8:6 He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary,

In, Ezekiel 8:6, the LORD is justly submitting His formal complaint of something that is utterly ominous. That His people, ancient Israel, are behaving in such an unlawful manner, and that is contrary to the law of God, so that God is being given His walking papers from His own sanctuary which the LORD GOD built and established for Israel's protection! This is happening after God had saved Israel from the Egyptians, and from the other pagan tribes, giving them safe passage through the red sea, and through the wilderness, and establishing their own country, pushing out their enemies. Through many miracles God had fed them and protected them, as the LORD now continues with His just grievance concerning this people:

Ezekiel 8:7-10 ¶ And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. 8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. 9 And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. 10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about.

In, Matthew 13:34, the Lord teaches us how Christ spoke in parables, and without a parable He did not speak. In, Ezekiel 8:7-10, we hear God speaking of abominable beasts, and creeping things. Have we never heard someone referred to as a beast, or something that resembles a creepy thing? And of course we have. So there's no excuse as we consider the context not to understand how Jehovah God is referring to is His people as abominable beasts, and creeping things. And God, who, alone, is perfectly righteous and just in all His judgments, who is eternally without sin, is truthful in all of His words. It is not God who is lost, or who is cruel and doesn't know what He is talking about! But it is mankind who were created very good who have chosen to cruelly sin against their Creator, (Genesis 1:31; 3:6-10).

In conjunction with these beasts which God also calls messengers of the gate, God exposes them as the house of Israel, who God sees the abominations of upon the wall round about – the writing on the wall – which God who is a consuming fire is expressing jealousy over that must be appeased. For His people, ancient Israel, are worshipping the things of this earth, including the wicked, rather than God Himself. So the LORD continues:

Ezekiel 8:11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.

For some of us who, for many years, have been exceedingly blessed being given the ability to study God's word, we have seen how today God is opening up the information of numbers which are also the word of God. And we see how the number seven, (7), anywhere it's found in scripture, is pointing to God's perfectly completed work throughout the unfolding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, (Genesis 2:1-4). So, in, Ezekiel 8:11, when we see the phrase, seventy men, we can know God is speaking of, these men, as having existed since Cain killed his brother Abel, because Abel's sacrifice was more faithful than Cain's. The phrase, seventy men, is pointing to the unfolding of the gospel of Jesus Christ in its entirety, which includes both the Old And New Testament periods, or, seasons.

God is lovingly and mercifully opening the curtain to show what is going on in His Sanctuary, that some might hear and repent. To the unlearned, and unbelieving, things are going as they should. The physical works of handling the censors etc. Yet, God see's no light but spiritual darkness. And how can it be that Israel, who are God's people, are committing such abominations in God's house in the dark, as they go through the motions of the temple with the physical censors in hand, *[the hand being the expression of the will]*; yet, God see's their heart is not for the word of God, but for their abominations and their idols that they worship, all along the wall, typifying the house of God? The LORD continues:

Ezekiel 8:12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

This is what happened to ancient Israel after God had cared for them and protected them for so long. Instead of praising God and worshipping Him, 'according to His word that had been given to Israel', rather, in the love of money, and the worship of things, ancient Israel began worshipping the world around them, desiring to be one with the world.

Could the abominations and idol worship of ancient Israel have continued if the house of Israel had remembered God was able to see everything they do? But because Israel didn't remember their God, isn't this the evidence that God's eternal judgment was on them? Therefore, God is not actually warning them through the Son of man! Rather, God is giving this warning, through, Ezekiel, to the Son of man, who in the first instance is The LORD, who in turn gives the warning to His born again elect. This formal grievance and warning to God's people is what God's faithful are going to want to see and hear, as the word of God opens their spiritual eyes:

Ezekiel 8:17-18 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Clearly, Ezekiel 8:18, is speaking of a final end, is it not! God confirms this truth by the fact that ancient Israel came to an end when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. In the world of Noah's day there also came an end because of the world's wickedness of that day! And though Israel becomes a nation again, as we say, in, 1948 A.D., but they do not acknowledge the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor the payment for sin! Therefore, spiritually, as a nation, Israel remains destroyed from the Babylonians. Spiritually God has nothing to do with them as a whole nation as in earlier times. The fig tree is bearing no fruit; yet, is in leaf! Again, we must remember, Matthew 13:34, where God informs us how Christ spoke in parables, and without a parable He did not speak:

Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Matthew 24:32 ¶ Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Again, those whom God is opening the eyes of can see how "summer" has to do with the harvest.

Proverbs 6:8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

However, in, Ezekiel 8, God is not speaking of a harvest concerning the messengers at the entrance of the gate, [*the Old Testament Congregation Israel*]. Why did this happen to the house of Israel who were God's people? And how can today's Christian congregations think God will not visit them with the same jealousy and anger when today's Christian messengers are telling their members that they are saved – that they have eternal life? These are actions and words that identify the abominations of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, the 250 princes, and the 14,700, of the congregation, all of which God destroyed, and which is pointing to the last day!

Again, we may not know this, but the number, 14,700, can point to God's complete perfection, (700), of His gospel program that unfolds from Adam's sin to the last day, manifesting 14 millennia, which the world is presently in. Is it a coincidence that God, in, Exodus 12, commands His people Israel, [*who as a nation typify the spiritual nation of God*], that they were to exit Egypt on the 14th day of the 1st month, at even? The 14th day signifying the present time we are in, at even, indicating when the day approaches its end when darkness settles in. But we won't get into this much here, but to say, all numbers in God's word have to do with the unfolding of the gospel of God's Son Jesus Christ. And now more than ever we had better be listening to all of it! Because the late Harold Camping's study of, Genesis 5 & 11, was not so much in error as it was unfinished and incomplete.

Are today's Christian congregations rejecting what God teaches, in, Numbers 16, when God opened up the earth that swallowed the princes, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, who, took on the role of priests, when Aaron and Moses were God's priests! Do today's Christian congregations forget the congregation of 14,700, and 250 princes, men, women, the elderly, and children, that followed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, who burned their own incense, [*salvation by the works of the law*]? Who fought with Moses and Aaron over 'their understanding' that everyone was saved in the congregation, and that Moses and Aaron ought to accept their understanding, as if it was their house to declare such things! They were not God's priests; Aaron and Moses were! And as God's proof of this so that there would be no misunderstanding, God destroyed them with the earth, women, and children, and the elderly!

Therefore, in, Numbers 16, as well as, Ezekiel 8:1-18, and throughout God's word, God is warning as He demonstrates His coming wrath; because it is God's house according to God's word which Moses and Aaron, [*typifying God's elect*], had been obeying. But, because the 14,700, and the 250 princes, brought the jealousy and anger of God upon themselves, when God's word would have warned them, they were swallowed up by the earth.

And this is pointing to the last day when the wicked are destroyed with the earth by fire, while God's elect are taken up with Christ into the New Heaven and the New Earth, (2 Peter 3).

How is it going to benefit today's congregations who think God works differently today than He did in Israel's day? This idea is certainly not according to God's word:

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

According to all of God's word, every Congregation, Fellowship, and Sanctuary, that professes Christ, is God's house! It is not the house of the reverend, or, priest, or pastor, or elder, etc. It is God's house! And in God's house, which includes the fleshly tabernacle, and the earthly building, God commands His faithful to examine themselves to see, according to God's word, whether they be of the faith of Jesus Christ, except they be reprobate!

As we study all of scripture we can know that God is not making a one time commandment here, and then your done examining yourself. That's how the pagan world operates according to earthly measurements, as they compare themselves one with another, which is contrary to the word of God, (2 Corinthians 10:12).

If I am being told by my spiritual leaders that I am saved and have nothing to worry about, where is my incentive to faithfully examine myself on a regular bases according to all of scripture? Where is the mortifying of the deeds of the flesh, (Romans 8:13)? Where is the growing in Grace, (2 Peter 3:18)? When these things are missing throughout a congregation that professes Christ, this is why the jealousy and wrath of God must come, and the flame to the candle stick is snuffed out, indicating the Holy Spirit is no longer there, as we read, in, 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

If I took the word of my spiritual leaders over the word of God, according to all of God's word, God must see's this as an abomination and idol worship! Instead of worshipping Almighty God by coming to Him with ongoing prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, if I am leaning on my spiritual leaders, [*leaning my hand on the wall*], the Bible tells me God who is a Jealous God shall see me as an abominable idol worshipper, and will deal with me according to His word.

God, who is a consuming fire is a jealous God, who, unlike mankind, does not sit back, compromise, and conform, in order to make peace! That's the kind of peace God warns about, (2 Thessalonians 5:3)!

Even if only in my fleshly temple, “this is His House”! Not the fleshly temple itself, or the physical building we might fellowship in, but the souls and spirits that are abiding in them! But, today, we are being lied to by the messengers at the entrance to the gate, which, in many instances, use to be the faithful house of God, but no longer walk according to God’s word only!

So, in, Ezekiel 8:1-18, God has something to say about this, and He’s not finished. The God of the Holy Bible has not gone away. And His writing is on the wall that goes from the Old Testament to the completion of the New Testament, for those who can hear:

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?