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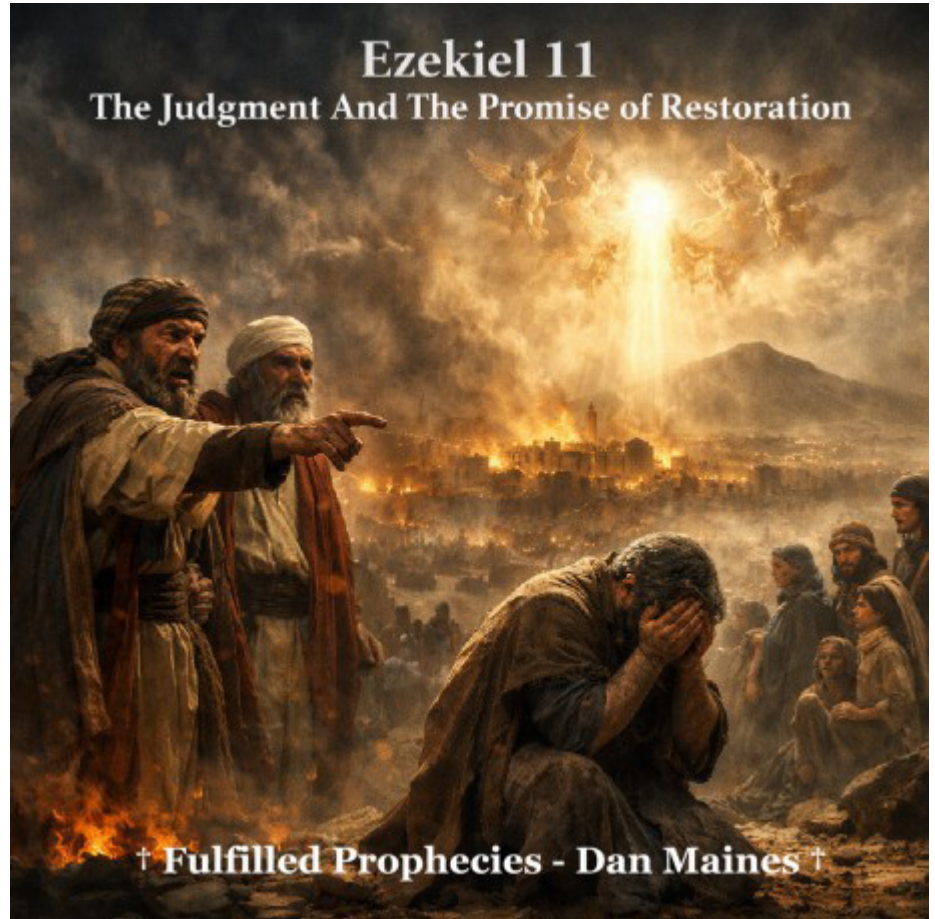
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Ezekiel 11 The Judgment And The Promise Of Restoration



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Ezekiel 11 brings us into the final stage of the departure of God's presence from Jerusalem, showing both judgment on corrupt leadership and a promise of restoration for a faithful remnant (Ezekiel 10:18-19; Ezekiel 11:22-23).

† This chapter exposes false confidence among the leaders who believed they were safe, while God declares that judgment is already at the door (Jeremiah 7:4; Micah 3:11).

† From the fulfilled perspective, this sets the pattern that carried forward into the first century, where leadership rejected truth, and judgment came upon that generation just as Jesus said (Matthew 23:36; Luke 19:41-44).

Ezekiel 11:1-4

Moreover, the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the LORD'S house which faced eastward. And behold, there were twenty-five men at the entrance of the gate, and among them I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azzur and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, leaders of the people. He said to me, Son of man, these are the men who devise wrongdoing and give bad advice in this city, who say, The time is not near to build houses. This city is the pot and we are the meat. Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, son of man!

† These leaders mocked the idea of coming judgment, claiming safety within Jerusalem, but their confidence was false (Jeremiah 6:14; Ezekiel 13:10).

† Their statement shows they believed judgment was far off, just like those in Jesus' day who said everything would continue as normal (Matthew 24:38-39).

† God commands Ezekiel to speak against them, showing that leadership carries responsibility, and false teaching brings severe consequences (James 3:1; Ezekiel 34:2).

Ezekiel 11:5-12

Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and He said to me, Say, This is what the LORD says: So you have said, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts. You have multiplied your slain in this city and filled its streets with them. Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of the city are the meat, and this city is the pot; but I will bring you out of it. You have feared a sword, so I will bring a sword upon you, the Lord GOD declares. And I will bring you out of the city and hand you over to strangers and execute judgments against you. You will fall by the sword. I will judge you to the

border of Israel; so you shall know that I am the LORD. This city will not be a pot for you, nor will you be meat in the midst of it; I will judge you to the border of Israel. And you will know that I am the LORD, because you have not walked in My statutes nor executed My ordinances, but have acted in accordance with the ordinances of the nations around you.

† God exposes that their sin was not hidden, He knew their thoughts and actions completely (Psalm 139:1-4; Hebrews 4:13).

† The imagery of the caldron is reversed, what they thought was protection becomes the place of exposure and judgment (Ezekiel 24:3-6).

† This mirrors Jesus exposing the hypocrisy of the leaders in His day, who outwardly appeared righteous but were full of corruption (Matthew 23:27-28).

Ezekiel 11:13

Now it came about, as I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell on my face and cried out with a loud voice and said, Oh Lord GOD! Will You bring the remnant of Israel to a complete end?

† The sudden death of Pelatiah confirmed the certainty of God's judgment (Acts 5:1-5).

† Ezekiel's response shows the heart of a true servant, grieving over judgment rather than celebrating it (Romans 9:1-3; Jeremiah 9:1).

† Even in judgment, God preserves a remnant, showing His faithfulness to His covenant promises (Isaiah 10:20-22).

Ezekiel 11:14-21

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, your brothers, your relatives, your fellow exiles, and the entire house of Israel, all of them, are those to whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Go far away from the LORD; this land has been given to us as a possession. Therefore say, This is

what the Lord GOD says: Though I had removed them far away among the nations and though I had scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary for them for a little while in the countries where they had gone. Therefore say, This is what the Lord GOD says: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you from the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. But as for those whose hearts pursue their detestable things and abominations, I will bring their conduct down on their heads, declares the Lord GOD.

† God promises restoration, not based on physical location, but on transformation of the heart (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

† The new heart and new spirit point directly to the work of Christ and the establishment of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

† This was fulfilled in the first century, where the faithful remnant received the Spirit and became the true people of God (Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 3:28-29).

Ezekiel 11:22-25

Then the cherubim lifted up their wings with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God to the exiles in Chaldea. So the vision that I had seen left me. Then I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.

† The departure of God's glory marks the complete judgment upon Jerusalem, His presence leaving the temple (1 Samuel 4:21-22; Matthew 23:38).

† This foreshadows the final judgment in AD 70, where the temple was left desolate because of rejection (Luke 21:20-22).

† God's presence is no longer tied to a physical building, but to His people through the Spirit (John 4:21-24; 1 Corinthians 3:16).

Historical References

† Josephus records the corruption of Jerusalem's leadership and the judgment that followed in AD 70, confirming the pattern seen in Ezekiel.

† Eusebius notes that believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction, preserving the remnant just as God promised.

† Tacitus describes the internal corruption and violence within Jerusalem before its fall, matching the prophetic warnings.

How it applies to us today

† We can't rely on outward identity or association, God looks at the heart (Romans 2:28-29).

† False security will always lead to destruction, only obedience and faith in Christ bring life (Matthew 7:21-23).

† God's presence is with His people now, not tied to a building or location (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who were the leaders in Ezekiel 11?

A: They were corrupt leaders of Jerusalem who gave wicked counsel and led the people astray (Ezekiel 11:1-2).

Q: What does the pot represent?

A: It represents false security, thinking Jerusalem would protect them from judgment (Ezekiel 11:3-7).

Q: What is the new heart and new spirit?

A: It is the transformation God gives through the New Covenant in Christ (Ezekiel 11:19; Hebrews 8:10).

Q: What does the departure of God's glory mean?

A: It means judgment and the removal of God's presence from the temple (Ezekiel 11:23; Matthew 23:38).

Q: When was this ultimately fulfilled?

A: It was fulfilled in the first century with the coming of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 11:1-25

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories

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