

EZEKIEL 11: 1 Moreover the Spirit lifted me up, and brought me to the east gate of the LORD's house, which looks eastward: and see, at the door of the gate twenty-five men; and I saw in their midst Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

This chapter denounces the judgments of God against those wicked persons who remained in Jerusalem and made a mock of the types and predictions of the prophets, Eze 11:1-13; compare Eze 11:3 with Jer 1:13. God promises to favour those who were gone into captivity, and intimates their restoration from the Babylonish yoke, Eze 11:14-21. Then the shechinah, or symbol of the Divine Presence, is represented forsaking the city, as in the foregoing chapter it did the temple, Eze 11:22, Eze 11:23; and the prophet returns in vision to the place from which he set out, (Eze 8:1. etc.), in order to communicate his instructions to his brethren of the captivity, Eze 11:24, Eze 11:25.

Verse 1

At the door of the gate five and twenty men - The same persons, no doubt, who appear, Eze 8:16, worshipping the sun.

Jaazaniah the son of Azur - In Eze 8:16, we find a Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. If Shaphan was also called Azur, they may be the same person. But it is most likely that there were two of this name, and both chiefs among the people.

EZEKIEL 11: 2 He said to me, Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity, and who give wicked counsel in this city;

EZEKIEL 11: 3 who say, The time is not near to build houses: this is the cauldron, and we are the meat.

Verse 3

It is not near - That is, the threatened invasion.

This city is the caldron, and we be the flesh - See the vision of the seething pot, Jer 1:13. These infidels seem to say: "We will run all risks, we will abide in the city. Though it be the caldron, and we the flesh, yet we will share its fate: if it perish, we will perish with it." Or they may allude to the above prediction of Jeremiah, in order to ridicule it: "We were to have been boiled long ago: but the fulfillment of that prediction is not near yet."

EZEKIEL 11: 4 Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, son of man.

EZEKIEL 11: 5 The Spirit of the LORD fell on me, and he said to me, Speak, Thus says the LORD: Thus you have said, house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind.

EZEKIEL 11: 6 You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain.

EZEKIEL 11: 7 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Your slain whom you have laid in its midst, they are the meat, and this is the cauldron; but you shall be brought out of its midst.

Verse 7

Your slain - they are the flesh - Jerusalem is the caldron, and those who have been slain in it, they are the flesh; and though ye purpose to stay and share its fate, ye shall not be permitted to do so, ye shall be carried into captivity.

EZEKIEL 11: 8 You have feared the sword; and I will bring the sword on you, says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 11: 9 I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgements among you.

Verse 9

And deliver you into the hands of strangers - This seems to refer chiefly to Zedekiah and his family.

EZEKIEL 11: 10 You shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 11: 11 This shall not be your cauldron, neither shall you be the meat in its midst; I will judge you in the border of Israel;

Verse 11

I will judge you in the border of Israel - Though Riblah was in Syria, yet it was on the very frontiers of Israel; and it was here that Zedekiah's sons were slain, and his own eyes put out.

EZEKIEL 11: 12 and you shall know that I am the LORD: for you have not walked in my statutes, neither have you executed my ordinances, but have done after the ordinances of the nations that are around you.

EZEKIEL 11: 13 When I prophesied, Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down on my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, "Ah Lord GOD! will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"

Verse 13

Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died - Most probably he was struck dead the very hour in which Ezekiel prophesied against him. His death appears to have resembled that of Ananias and Sapphira, Act 5:1, etc.

EZEKIEL 11: 14 the LORD's word came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 11: 15 "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, the men of your relatives, and all the house of Israel, all of them, to whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far away from the LORD. This land has been given to us for a possession.'"

Verse 15

Get you far from the Lord - These are the words of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, against those of Israel who had been carried away to Babylon with Jeconiah. Go ye far from the Lord: but as for us, the land of Israel is given to us for a possession, we shall never be removed from it, and they shall never return to it.

EZEKIEL 11: 16 Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Whereas I have removed them far off among the nations, and whereas I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them a sanctuary for a little while in the countries where they have come.

Verse 16

Yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary - Though thus exiled from their own land, yet not forgotten by their God. While in their captivity, I will dispense many blessings to them; and I will restore them to their own land, Eze 11:17, from which they shall put away all idolatry, Eze 11:18.

EZEKIEL 11: 17 Therefore say, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

EZEKIEL 11: 18 They shall come there, and they shall take away all the detestable things of it and all its abominations from there.

EZEKIEL 11: 19 I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh;

Verse 19

And I will give them one heart - A whole system of renewed affections.

And I will put a new spirit within you - To direct and influence these new affections.

And I will take the stony heart out of their flesh - That which would not receive the impressions of my Spirit.

And will give them a heart of flesh - One that is capable of receiving and retaining these impressions.

EZEKIEL 11: 20 that they may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Verse 20

That they may walk in my statutes - The holiness of their lives shall prove the work of God upon their hearts. Then it shall appear that I am their God, because I have done such things in them and for them; and their holy conduct shall show that they are my people. See on Eze 36:25 (note), etc.

EZEKIEL 11: 21 But as for them whose heart walks after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their way on their own heads, says the Lord GOD.

Verse 21

But as for them whose heart walketh - Them whose affections are attached to idolatry, they shall have such reward as their idols can give them, and such a recompense as Divine justice shall award them.

EZEKIEL 11: 22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, and the wheels were beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

EZEKIEL 11: 23 the LORD's glory went up from the midst of the city, and stood on the mountain which is on the east side of the city.

Verse 23

The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city - This vision is no mean proof of the long-suffering of God. He did not abandon this people all at once; he departed by little and little.

First, he left the temple

Secondly, he stopped a little at the gate of the city.

Thirdly, he departed entirely from the city and went to the Mount of Olives, which lay on the east side of the city. Having tarried there for some time to see if they would repent and turn to him -

Fourthly, he departed to heaven. The vision being now concluded, the prophet is taken away by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, and there announces to the captive Israelites what God had showed him in the preceding visions, and the good that he had spoken concerning them; who at first did not seem to profit much by them, which the prophet severely reproves.

EZEKIEL 11: 24 The Spirit lifted me up, and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.

EZEKIEL 11: 25 Then I spoke to them of the captivity all the things that the LORD had shown me.
