



## Part 2 of 3

As mentioned last week, two major themes emerge from the book of Ezekiel. One is that **God is Sovereign** overall nations, and He will ultimately be glorified. The second pertains to the **Presence of God**, and due to Judah's idolatry, His Presence leaves the Temple in Jerusalem.

God's departure from the Temple is one of the most significant events in the entire Old Testament. Recall that a critical component of God's covenant with His people was His promise to "dwell in their midst." God's Presence blessed them, protected them, and allowed them to fellowship with Him. However, due to their horrendous idolatry practiced in Jerusalem (8:5-16), God's Presence departs from the Temple (many scholars believe this event signals the demise of the old [Mosaic] covenant). Ezekiel describes the departure of God's Presence from the Temple. Presence of God does not return to the Temple until Jesus walks in through the gates.

There were also numerous false prophets during this time who were making up prophecies and contradicting the message of God's true prophets. God's wrath came upon them too, "Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit... (13:3).

God declares that rejecting Him for idols is like a woman rejecting her loving husband to become a prostitute. God compares Jerusalem to a useless vine, one that does not produce any fruit (*side note... in John 15, Jesus picks up this analogy, telling His disciples that if they abide in Him [the true vine], they will produce much fruit*).

Judgment and destruction come to Jerusalem through the Babylonian invasion as the "sword of God." God then declares that "they will know that I am the Lord" (24:27), a theme that runs throughout Ezekiel. Judgment comes also to the surrounding nations for their sins (25-32).

Next week, Ezekiel's final message turns from judgment to hope...