

Marked Men

Ezekiel 9 – background

- Daniel 1:1-2 – 606 BC
 - Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem
 - Made Jehoiakim servant
 - Carried group of Hebrews into captivity
 - Daniel was among them

Ezekiel 9

- Daniel 1:1-2 – 606 BC
- Ezekiel 1:1-2 – 597 BC
 - Nebuchadnezzar returned to Jerusalem
 - Captured larger group (about 10,000, 2 K.24:14)
 - Included Jehoiachin and young priest:
Ezekiel
 - Daniel: Ezk.14:14, 20

Ezk.8: abominations. Ezekiel 9 . . .

- Ezekiel's mission – save 597 group in Babylon from absolute apostasy

9:1-2: gets their attention: battle-axes . . .
writer's inkhorn

- From north: place of idolatry (8:3-6)

9:3-4: man in linen marks foreheads of some

9:5-7: others follow him through city . . .

- Kill all who have no mark
- Defile Temple (6, sanctuary; 8:11-12)

Summary:

1. Without glory of God, Temple is just another building.
2. Without presence of God, Israel like other people. [See 1 Sm.4:19-22]

Ezk.9:8-10: results –

- Ezekiel's intercession achieves nothing.
- They think / talk like atheists; are treated as such.
- God's longsuffering has run out (8:17-18).

I. Characteristics of Righteous

The righteous are NOT those who. . .

- Sit in neutral zone. Josh.24¹⁴ Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **LORD!**
¹⁵ And if it seems good to you, serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

We call it moral relativism

The righteous are NOT those who. . .

- Sit in neutral zone. Josh.24
- Hate sin but do not rebuke sinner. 1 Sm.2²³

So he said to them, Why do you do such things? For I hear of your wickedness from all the people. ²⁴ No, it is not a good report that you make the LORD's name profane. ²⁵ If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

We call it tolerance

The righteous are NOT those who. . .

- Sit in neutral zone. Josh.24
- Hate sin but do not rebuke sinner. 1 Sm.2
- Blindly follow evil men. Mt.15¹⁴ I will send them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

We call it freedom of choice

The righteous are NOT those who. . .

- Sit in neutral zone. Josh.24
- Hate sin but do not rebuke sinner. 1 Sm.2
- Blindly follow evil men. Mt.15:14
- Know truth but will not obey

Therefore whatever they say to observe, that observe, but do not do according to the things they say, and do not do

We call it moralism

The righteous are NOT those who. . .

- Sit in neutral zone. Josh.24
- Hate sin but do not rebuke sinner. 1 Sm.2
- Blindly follow evil men. Mt.15:14
- Know truth but do not obey it.
- Cry over punishment. Cain and Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!"

We call it too little, too late

The righteous are those who. . .

- Sigh . . .
- Cry . . . over abominations of Jerusalem
 - 2 Pt.2:7-8, Lot
 - If surrounded by sin, easy to become calloused

I. Characteristics of Righteous

II. Mark of Righteous

1. Divine mark, 4

- Lord knows true disciples, and hypocrites
 - Sodom, Gn.18:22-33 –
 - Mark was righteous life
 - Egypt, Ex.12:7 –
 - Mark was blood on door posts, lintel
 - Jericho, Josh.2:18 –
 - Mark was scarlet cord in window
 - Jerusalem, Ezk.8-9 –
 - Mark was righteous character

2. Distinctive mark, 6

- God's people are different from world.

2 Tim.2¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

3. Delivering mark, 6

- Individuals received mark, not group as a whole
- One may be saved, another lost
- NOT saved from physical death
 - Ezk.21:3-4
 - Ezk.9 speaks of spiritual deliverance

I. Characteristics of Righteous

II. Mark of Righteous

III. Judgment of Righteous

Began at sanctuary (6-7)

- Began with elders (and priests) before the temple (7:26)
- Then worked their way throughout city (Jerusalem)
 - NOT judgment merely against common people of Israel. Mt.15:14

1 Pt.4:17

- Judgment begins at house of God
- Ezekiel pronounced judgment on God's people who turned from Him
- Peter encourages sufferers for Christ – they are blessed (v.14)
 - Jews had long history of suffering persecution (Maccabees)
 - Peter writes to Gentiles who had no experience in being a cultural minority
 - They had been at home in their city

1 Pt.4:12

Fiery trial (test) – as gold, 1:7

- People who obey gospel expect blessings – then the “fine print” – persecution.
 - 1 Pt.2:23; 2 Tim.3:12
 - Expect it.
 - You were once accepted in hometown
 - You changed. 1 Pt.4:3-4

Persecution is necessary
to maturity

1 Pt.4:13

Partakers of Christ's sufferings

- We follow example of His behavior in suffering (2:21, 23)
- Rejoice over it.
- Ac.5⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

1 Pt.4:13

Partakers of Christ's sufferings

- We follow example of His behavior in suffering (2:21, 23)
- Rejoice over it.
- Ro.8¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

1 Pt.4:14

Reproached for name of Christ

Rejected by former social group

- “This world is not my home...”
- Mt.5¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- Reproach reminds us: *God approves us.*
Hb.12:1-2
- “Spirit of glory” seen in His people who suffer for truth. Ac.6:15.

1 Pt.4:15

Not all suffering is a blessing

- “I’m hurting, so I must be righteous...”
- Some suffering is earned / deserved.
- Lk.23⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.

1 Pt.4:16

Suffer as a Christian

- Robber: Lk.23⁴¹ this Man has done nothing amiss...
- Some suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters... (1 Pt.4:15) ... Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian... (16)

1 Pt.4:17

The time has come...

Judgment to begin at house of God

- Allusion to Ezk.9:6?
 - “Judgment”: severe trial
 - Refers to fiery trial (v.12)
 - Verdict against Christians by sinners
 - Not judgment of punishment for our sins; reaction of sinners to Christians

1 Pt.4:17

The time has come...

Judgment to begin at house of God

- “Begin”: not condemning judgment, but corrective (purge believers, warn ungodly)
- “End”: Ph.3:19 ...*is destruction*...
 - Consummation of sufferings against wicked at Judgment. Lk.23:28,31

1 Pt.4:18

With difficulty

- Ac.14:18.
- The righteous come through trials with great difficulty; the ungodly are much worse off

1 Pt.4:19

Entrust for safekeeping

Depositing treasure into safe
and trustworthy hands

- “Faithful” – in trials, do not doubt His care
- “Creator” – in trials, do not doubt His ability
 - Even if we suffer violent death, no need to fear (3:14)
 - Lk.23:46, ‘commit’
 - Requires trust

What do you think about God?

- Crucial question: what does God know about us? V.18

House of God	Obey not gospel
Us	Ungodly
Righteous	Sinner

- If we can be saved out of Lord's house, we can be saved **without** obeying the gospel, **in** a state of ungodliness and sin.

Paul's past suffering cannot compare

¹⁹ My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you
– Gal.4