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## Ezekiel 9

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Ezekiel 9.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- Six executioners and a man clothed in linen with a writing pad.
- Mark the foreheads of all who mourn over the wickedness in Jerusalem.
- The mark in the forehead.
- Touch no-one who has the mark on their forehead.
- Ezekiel intercedes for Israel.
- The LORD replies to Ezekiel's prayer.

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

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Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD. Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem. After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (chpt. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins. For a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

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**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### EZEKIEL 9:1-2

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#### Six Executioners and a Man clothed in Linen with a Writing Pad.

- **Ezekiel 9:1-2:** Then he (a man of brightness and fire) (Ezek. 8:2) cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near *the executioners* of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand." <sup>2</sup>And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was *a man clothed in linen*, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

In Ezekiel's vision he sees six executioners from the city of Jerusalem with their axes in their hand and a man clothed in linen with a writing pad appear standing beside the altar.

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### EZEKIEL 9:3-4

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## Mark the Foreheads of all who Mourn at Wickedness in Jerusalem.

- **Ezekiel 9:3-4:** Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he (the cherub) called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."

**NOTICE:** the cherub is also called the LORD (Ezek. 9:3-4).

The Glory of God has lifted from the cherub which rested at the entrance to Jerusalem. There appears to be a cherub of peace resting at the entrance gate in the wall of Jerusalem.

**The mark in the forehead:** this cherub said to the man clothed in linen (a symbol of righteousness) to walk through the city of Jerusalem and mark the forehead of everyone who mourns and weeps over all the wickedness they see in the city. This invisible and spiritual mark in the forehead is a seal for salvation to eternal life for those who mourn over sin. Many with the mark may have been mortally killed when Babylon's armies invaded the city of Jerusalem, but everyone who had been marked in the forehead by the man clothed in linen will be remembered by God, counted righteous and resurrected to eternal life. Just as those who mourn over sin today and have faith in Christ are sealed for salvation and eternal life, this mark in the forehead is doing the same thing for all those who receive it.

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### EZEKIEL 9:5-7

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#### Touch no-one who has the Mark on their Forehead.

- **Ezekiel 9:5-7:** And to the others (the six executioners) (v1) he (the cherub) (v2) (said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. <sup>6</sup>Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they (the six executioners) (v1) began with the elders who were before the house. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out." So they went out and struck in the city.

The six executioners are told to slaughter everyone who has not received the mark in their forehead.

**The executioners:** are, a symbol of the armies of Babylon who invaded the city of Jerusalem, burned the city, pillaged the temple of God and slaughtered the inhabitants of the city.

**NOTICE:** the executioners are told to begin at the temple, all those who are in leadership and have influence over the LORD'S people are first to be judged.

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### EZEKIEL 9:8

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#### Ezekiel intercedes for Israel.

- **Ezekiel 9:8:** And while they (the six executioners) (v1) were striking, and I (Ezekiel) was left alone, I fell upon my face, and cried, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you destroy all the remnant of Israel in the outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

Ezekiel in his vision sees all the horror that is about to come upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and he is devastated, and prays God will not destroy all the people of Jerusalem.

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### EZEKIEL 9:9-11

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## The LORD replies to Ezekiel's Prayer.

- **Ezekiel 9:9-11:** Then he (the LORD) said to me, "The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great. The land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice. For they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see.'<sup>10</sup> As for me, my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will bring their deeds upon their heads."<sup>11</sup> And behold, the man clothed in linen, with the writing case at his waist, brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded me."

The LORD answers Ezekiel's prayer by comforting him and saying that the man (clothed in linen) has marked the foreheads of those who weep over the wickedness in the city of Jerusalem. The mark in this context is a symbol of being sealed by God for salvation and eternal life. It is a symbol of those who have favour with God and are set aside and kept for salvation and eternal life.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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