

Ezekiel 9: Let Not Your Eye Spare, Neither Have Ye Pity

Introductory Remarks

- Ezekiel 9 is one of the most sobering visions in the book.
 - If chapter 8 showed why God must abandon the temple, chapter 9 shows how His judgment begins inside it.
 - Here we see two groups contrasted: those who grieve over sin and those who embrace it.
 - The vision reminds us that God's judgment is not blind destruction — it separates the righteous from the wicked.
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Sectional Overview

- **Placement:** Follows directly after the vision of abominations in ch. 8. While ch. 8 exposed the reasons for divine departure, ch. 9 depicts the execution of judgment within Jerusalem.
- **Structure:**
 - 9:1–2 — The Executioners Summoned: Six men with weapons and one man in linen with a writing case.
 - 9:3–6 — Command to Mark and Slay: Glory moves to the threshold; the faithful marked; executioners commanded to strike.
 - 9:7–8 — Execution and Ezekiel's Intercession: Temple defiled with corpses; Ezekiel pleads for the remnant.
 - 9:9–11 — Divine Justification and Report: God explains the guilt of the people; man in linen reports completion.

- **Themes:** Judgment begins at the sanctuary, separation of righteous and wicked, impartial divine justice, the glory of God preparing to depart.
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Verse-by-Verse Notes

9:1–2 — The Executioners Summoned

- v. 1 — Loud divine summons calls executioners of the city, each with destroying weapon. “Overseers” becomes ironic: guardians now bring death.
- v. 2 — Six men with weapons come from the north (Babylon’s direction). With them, a man in linen with a writing case, distinct role: to mark the faithful. They stand by the bronze altar — atonement displaced by judgment.

9:3–6 — Command to Mark and Slay

- v. 3 — Glory of God rises from cherubim to threshold — first stage of departure. Man in linen singled out.
- v. 4 — Command: mark those who sigh and groan over abominations. Mark (*tav*) recalls Passover blood and anticipates Revelation’s sealing.
- v. 5 — Executioners follow: commanded to strike without pity or sparing.
- v. 6 — Kill all ages and genders, but spare those marked. Begin at the sanctuary: first victims are temple elders. Judgment begins with leadership.

9:7–8 — Execution and Ezekiel’s Intercession

- v. 7 — Temple defiled with corpses — holy space turned into death scene. Yahweh Himself commands its desecration.
- v. 8 — Ezekiel falls on his face, pleading for the remnant. Fears annihilation. Intercession echoes Moses and Jeremiah.

9:9–11 — Divine Justification and Report

- v. 9 — God explains: guilt is exceedingly great; land full of blood, city full of injustice. People deny Yahweh's presence ("He does not see").
 - v. 10 — God reaffirms: no pity, no sparing. Deeds repaid on their heads — justice is precise and fair.
 - v. 11 — Man in linen reports completion: "I have done as you commanded." Confirms separation of faithful remnant from the rest.
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Closing Remarks

- Ezekiel 9 portrays the execution of God's justice in Jerusalem: six executioners and one scribe distinguish the guilty from the faithful.
 - God's glory moves to the threshold, signaling departure.
 - Judgment begins at the sanctuary, striking leaders first. Temple filled with corpses.
 - Ezekiel intercedes, but God insists the guilt is too great. Wrath without pity is justified.
 - Yet hope remains: the faithful are marked and spared. A remnant survives.
 - For us: God's judgment begins with His own people (1 Pet 4:17). True faith is shown in grief over sin. Judgment is measured, just, and purposeful.
 - This chapter sets up chs. 10–11, when the glory fully departs the temple.
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Bibliography

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