### Ezekiel

## Chapter 8

1It was during the 6th year, in the 6th month, on the 5th day of the month, while I was sitting in my house and all the elders of Judah were sitting before me, that the hand of Jehovah came over me.  
  
2For I looked and I saw what appeared to be a man… But from his loins down he looked like fire, and from his loins up he looked as bright as molten bronze... 3Then he stretched out what appeared to be a hand, and he lifted me by the decorative fringes on my clothes. With the wind, he lifted me up between the ground and the sky and he blew me back to JeruSalem!  
  
Then in this vision from God, I found myself looking north towards the [city] gate, and there [I saw] a monument to [the god], The Consumer.  
  
4In this vision; {Look!} there in the plains, I saw the glory of Jehovah the God of IsraEl!  
  
5And He said to me:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Now raise your eyes and look towards the north!’  
  
So I raised my eyes towards the north and I saw that just north of the gate (on the east side of the Altar) there was the idol of Jealousy that was standing at the entrance [to the city].  
  
6And He said to me:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Do you see these things that they’re doing…  
 These lawless deeds of the house of IsraEl  
 To push Me away from My Holy Place?  
 Yet, you’ll see even greater and worse lawless deeds!’  
  
7So then He carried me to the threshold of the Temple courtyard, and there {Look!} I saw an opening in the wall.  
  
8Then He said to me:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Dig [a hole] in this wall!’  
  
So I dug [a hole] in the wall, and there {Look!} I found a door!  
  
9And He said to me:  
  
 ‘Now, enter and see all the evil…  
 All the lawless things being done there!’  
  
10So I went inside... And {Look!} I saw depictions of all sorts of crawling things, [unclean] animals, and all the idols of the house of IsraEl… Foolish and disgusting things that had been painted on the walls.  
  
11Then I saw 70 men among the elders of the house of IsraEl, with JaAzaniAh (son of ShaPhan) standing in front of them, and each man was holding a smoking incense pan in his hands.  
  
12And He said to me:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘See what IsraEl’s elders are doing  
 In the darkness of these hidden rooms…  
 They’re saying that Jehovah is gone from the land!’  
  
13And then He said:  
  
 ‘But [I’ll show you] even greater lawless things.’  
  
14So He carried me up to the threshold of the Gate of Jehovah’s Temple (the one that faces north), and there I saw women sitting and wailing for TamMuz.  
  
15And He said to me:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Now, after you’ve seen all of this,  
 You’ll see even worse being done here.’  
  
16So He carried me into the inner courtyard of Jehovah’s Temple, up to the threshold of the Temple of the Lord... And there between the columned porch and the Altar I saw about 25 men who were facing east with their backsides to Jehovah’s Temple… They were bowing to the sun in the east!  
  
17Then He asked me:  
  
 ‘Should I not be concerned  
 About all of these lawless deeds  
 That the house of Judah is doing?  
 They’ve filled the land with their lawless ways…  
 They’ve turned from Me and provoked Me to rage!  
  
 ‘And look!  
 They’re holding out branches of grapevines  
 As though they are sneering at Me!  
  
 18‘So I’ll deal with them in My rage,  
 And My eyes will no longer spare them  
 Nor will I show mercy upon them.  
 So, no matter how loud they shout in My ears…  
 I won’t listen to the things that they’re saying!’