### Ezekiel

## Chapter 9

1Then He shouted into my ears with a great voice and said:  
  
 ‘The punishment on this city has arrived!’  
  
[And at that, some men appeared], and each one was carrying implements of destruction in their hands... 2{Look!} There were 6 men coming along the road that leads to the upper gate (the one that faces north), and they were each carrying battle axes in their hands.  
  
There was also a man in their midst who was wrapped in a robe that reached to his feet and he had a belt [covered with] sapphires wrapped around his waist. Then they entered [the Temple area] and stood next to the brass Altar. 3And at that, the glory of the God of IsraEl ascended from between the cherubs and hung there between them in the open air of the Temple.  
  
Then He called out to the man who was dressed in the full-length robe and who wore the belt of sapphires, 4and said to him:  
  
 ‘Now, go through the midst of the city  
 – Through the midst of JeruSalem –  
 And put a sign on the foreheads  
 Of the men who are groaning and deeply upset  
 For the lawless deeds being done here!’  
  
5And He said [to those who were carrying the axes] in my hearing:  
  
 ‘Now, go through the city behind him and strike…  
 Don’t let your eyes spare or show mercy!  
 6Kill and wipe out the old and the young,  
 Including the women, children, and virgins…  
 And start here at My Holy Place…  
 But don’t approach those who are marked with the sign!’  
  
So they started [by destroying] the elders who were there inside the Temple. 7For He said to [those who were carrying the axes]:  
  
 ‘Now, go and start defiling My Temple…  
 Fill its courtyards [with those whom you’ll slay],  
 And strike down all that are [fleeing]!’  
  
8Then as they started their destroying, I fell to my face and yelled out:  
  
 ‘O Lord!  
  
 ‘Are you going to wipe out all the remaining ones of IsraEl by pouring Your rage upon JeruSalem?’  
  
9And He told me:  
  
 ‘The sins of the houses of IsraEl and Judah  
 Have now become just too great;  
 For with [bloodshed], the land’s become filled,  
 And the city is full of uncleanness and sin.  
  
 ‘For they’re saying that Jehovah’s abandoned the land,  
 And that He’s no longer paying attention.  
 10So My eyes won’t spare or show mercy,  
 And I’ll hold them to blame for their evil.’  
  
11Then {Look!} the man who was wrapped in the full-length robe and wearing the belt around his waist returned to Him and said:  
  
 ‘[We have] done everything that you said to do.’