

Today, we'd like to study the title of "Tammuz" in *Ezekiel 8:1-18*.

To Online Word's people, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 3, "He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner *court*, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy," what is likely the image of jealousy?

Q2. In verse 14, "So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz," what is Tammuz?

Q3. In verse 17, "And He said to me, "Have you seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose," what does likely "they put the branch to their nose" mean?

(Background)

(Ezekiel 1:1-3) Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, on the fifth *day* of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. ²On the fifth *day* of the month, which was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, ³the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was upon him there. (Ezekiel was one of the captives in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar. Because Jehoiachin's captivity occurred in 597 BC, the fifth year was 592 BC when Ezekiel's prophecy began. So, now this chapter 8 is a year later (591 BC) that he is prophesying in the 6th month, the 5th day of the month.)

<p>¹ And it came to pass <u>in the sixth year</u>, in the sixth <i>month</i>, on the fifth <i>day</i> of the month, as I sat in my house with <u>the elders of Judah</u> sitting before me, that <u>the hand of the Lord GOD</u> fell upon me there.</p> <p>²Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like <u>the appearance of fire</u>—from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like <u>the color of amber</u>.</p>	<p>1= in the 6th year (in 591 BC); the elders of Judah (leaders of theocracy, neither democracy nor dictatorship)</p> <p>2= appearance of fire (yellow color)</p>
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<p>³He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and <u>the Spirit lifted me up</u> between earth and heaven, and brought me in <u>visions of God to Jerusalem</u>, to the door of <u>the north gate of the inner court</u>, where the seat of <u>the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy</u>.</p> <p>⁴And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw <u>in the plain</u>.</p> <p>⁵Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, <u>north of the altar gate</u>, was <u>this image of jealousy</u> in the entrance.</p> <p>⁶Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, <u>the great abominations</u> that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away <u>from My sanctuary</u>? Now turn again, you will see <u>greater abominations</u>." ⁷So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was <u>a hole in the wall</u>. ⁸Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door.⁹And He said to me, "Go in, and see <u>the wicked abominations</u> which they are doing there."</p> <p>¹⁰So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of <u>creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel</u>, portrayed all around on the walls.</p>	<p>3=Q1 visions of God to Jerusalem (prophecy to Jerusalem); the north gate of the inner court (temple of God toward the east side, right side); the image of jealousy (like Asherah (Ashtoreth) – Manasseh the evil king placed the fertility goddess idol for sexual immorality ¹2 Kings 21:7) ; which provokes to jealousy (a jealous God ²Ex 34:14)</p> <p>4= in the plain (in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar)</p> <p>5= the altar gate (before the temple of God, the burning alter was in the middle); the image of jealousy (is there in the right side in the entrance of the altar gate)</p> <p>6= My sanctuary (the right chamber of the temple; the left chamber behind red veil is the most holy place); greater abominations (God showed Ezekiel more wickedness continually)</p> <p>10= creeping thing, abominable beasts, all idols (e.g. temples in India, Rome, Korea, Cambodia, etc – monkeys, turtles, dragons, pigs, snakes, or grotesque looking forms)</p>
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¹ 2 Kings 21:7He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

² Ex 34:14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

<p>¹¹ And there stood before them <u>seventy men of the elders</u> of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood <u>Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan</u>. Each man had <u>a censer</u> in his hand, and <u>a thick cloud of incense</u> went up.</p>	<p>11= seventy men of the elders (leaders of Israel theocracy, ³Ex 24:1) ; Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan (like priest); a censer (High priest brings a movable incense censer in the most holy place for God, but here each man had a censer in his hand); a thick cloud of incense (not for God, but for idols)</p>
<p>¹² Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what <u>the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols?</u> For they say, '<u>The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.</u>'"</p>	<p>12= every man in the room of his idols (in the chamber of his imagery; every man in the mind of his idols – do we have any secret idol? Anything else more than God who we love - Money, Pleasure, Publicity, Children, etc); the Lord does not see us (not true but the Lord is omniscient ⁴Mat 10:26)</p>
<p>¹³ And He said to me, "Turn again, <i>and</i> you will see <u>greater abominations</u> that they are doing."</p>	<p>13= greater abominations (more worse thing shown);</p>
<p>¹⁴ So He brought me to the door of <u>the north gate of the LORD's house</u>; and to my dismay, women were sitting there <u>weeping for Tammuz</u>. ¹⁵ Then He said to me, "Have you seen <i>this</i>, O son of man? Turn again, you will see <u>greater abominations than these.</u>" ¹⁶ So He brought me into <u>the inner court of the LORD's house</u>; and there, <u>at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men</u> with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and <u>their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.</u></p>	<p>14= Q2 Tammuz (a god of the ancient Babylonian religion from the time of Babel tower ⁵Gen 11:9; the counterfeit of Jesus Christ⁶....)</p> <p>16= into the inner court of the Lord's house; at the door of the temple of the Lord; between the porch and the altar (between the porch of the temple and the burning altar); about 25 men (24 priests + 1 high priest); worshiping the sun (priests' sun worship right in the temple of God!)</p>

³ Ex 24:1 Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.

⁴ Mat 10:26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. (them= the critics to call the master of house as Beelzebub).

⁵ Gen 11:9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

⁶ son of Simmaramus the virgin, called as "The queen of heaven," who has another daughter Ashtart, his wife. He was born in the winter season, 12/25 – BBQ pig & Yule log to celebrate his birth; During his hunting, he was killed by a wild boar; he was dead and descended into Hades. Then Ashtart his wife mourned for him and went into Hades. He was resurrected in the Spring season. Celebration of his resurrection, called Ashtart. We call Easter; When Constantine adopted Christianity a state religion, he incorporated into the church many of the pagan practices. e.g. commercialism prevails Christmas (through Santa Clause); Easter (through Bunny))

<p>¹⁷ And He said to me, "<u>Have you seen this</u>, O son of man? Is it a <u>trivial thing</u> to the house of Judah to commit <u>the abominations</u> which they commit <u>here</u>? For they have filled the land <u>with violence</u>; then they have returned <u>to provoke Me to anger</u>. Indeed <u>they put the branch to their nose</u>. ¹⁸ Therefore I also will <u>act in fury</u>. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, <u>I will not hear them</u>."</p>	<p>17= Q3 Have you seen this (They crossed over the line between the love of God and the anger of God; sanctified life needed); a trivial thing (a light thing; No, it is a serious thing); violence ⁷ <i>Ezekiel 7:23</i>); put the branch of to their nose (Snubbing God – put their nose up in the air like they don't see God; they don't care of God; they are not interested in God)</p> <p>18= I will not hear them (God is love and patient, but is not forever. God's fury upon them)</p>
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⁷ *Ezekiel 7:23* 'Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence.