



Sample Content

Location: Thoughts From Members

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I'm in a Bible study group and we are studying Ezekiel (which I have not been excited about 😞) But last week we got to Ezekiel 11. God is giving Ezekiel, who is currently in captivity in Babylon, a vision of Jerusalem and the priests in the temple there. Ezekiel sees all the corruption and all the idol worship occurring in the very temple of God. And in this vision, God kills one of the priests. Ezekiel cries out, "God will you destroy all the remnant of your people?" In Ezekiel's mind, the remnant are those who are still in Jerusalem, still near the temple, still even remotely able to keep the feasts and be part of the covenant community on the land promised by God. Still part of "the way" of Israelite worship.

But God flips the script, and says, "actually, the remnant are the people I've already led out through exile into Babylon. The ones that are scattered, the ones about whom those still in Jerusalem are saying, "they have gone far from God and are deserted!" ... those very people are the ones I am protecting and providing for in other nations. They are scattered over the earth but I know each one of them, and those people will come back and be my true people."

Many have said, "look at the children of Israel! They were God's people, even when the whole nation had totally turned their back on him. Even when they were totally morally corrupt. They were still God's people, and it still wouldn't have been right for them to leave that community and try to worship God in a different way. It was still the right place to be." And of course, by comparison, they are saying that meetings are still the right place to be. But right here in Ezekiel is evidence that God actually removes his people from the very thing he sets up. He set up the land for the nation of Israel. He set up The temple, and the laws, and the feasts, and the priests. And then when it became so corrupt, he removed people from the very system and land and community that he had commanded for them to be part of.

So, whether or not you are operating from the paradigm that the meetings are God's true way on earth/the spiritual Israel/the New Testament ministry, (even if people have deeply corrupted this way), right here in Scripture is evidence that those who are scattered and "have left the City of God" are actually precisely where God wants them.

God knows those who are his. Wherever you are.