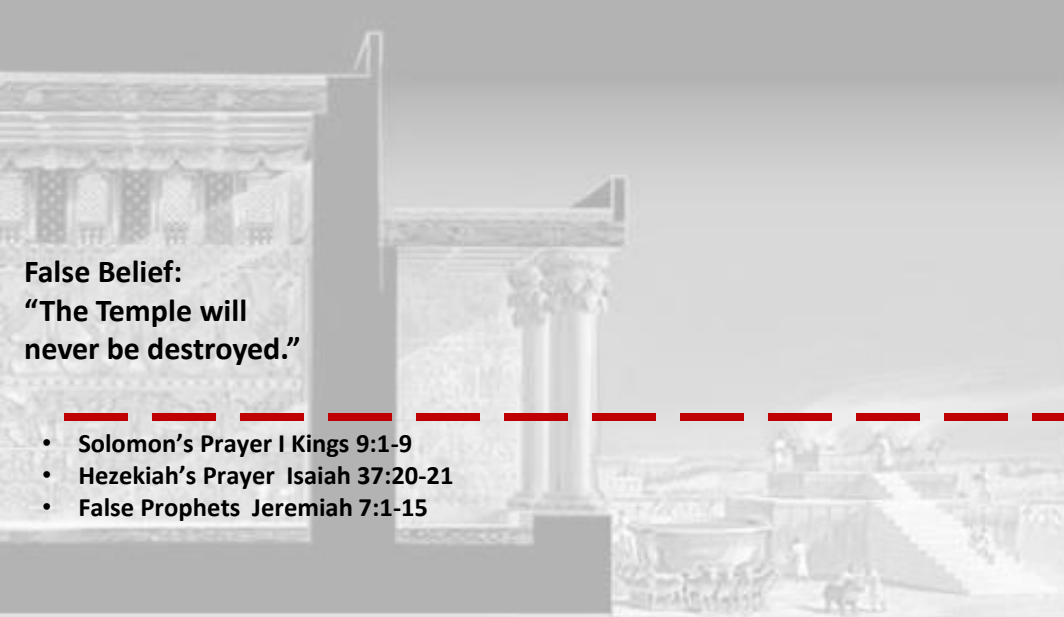


Comfort My People Destruction of the Temple



God expects His dwelling place to be kept in holiness and those who have all the form but harbor and practice their own wicked thoughts should not be deceived into thinking they are protected from the serious consequences to come.



False Belief:
“The Temple will never be destroyed.”

- Solomon’s Prayer I Kings 9:1-9
- Hezekiah’s Prayer Isaiah 37:20-21
- False Prophets Jeremiah 7:1-15

Who is Ezekiel?

Ezekiel is from the priests in Jerusalem. He is taken to Babylon probably during the second deportation during Jehoiachin’s reign. When he is 30 God appears to him in a vision in Babylon.

Hidden and Common Practices are Accepted

- He sees the Idol of Jealousy in the Temple.
- He digs through the hole into the secret rooms and sees the seventy elders offering incense to images of creeping things drawn on the walls.
- He sees the women in the outer courtyard wailing for Tammuz—the Babylonian fertility goddess.
- He sees twenty-five men inside the courtyard bowing down to worship the sun in the east.

Ezekiel Sees the Glory of God Depart Ezekiel 8-11

The glory of God moves in stages from the holy of holies to the threshold, to the altar, to the gate, to the mountain east of the city (Mount of Olives). The Temple is now “empty” and ready for destruction from Babylon.

True Belief: “The place where God dwells will never be destroyed” but no one has noticed that the Temple is no longer where God is dwelling because life is “business as usual.”

There is no power of God nor presence of God, but because there is activity and religious service it seems like nothing has changed.

Herod’s Temple John 2

Herod’s Advantage to Build Up Temple

Political move: He was ethnically an Edomite, a Jewish proselyte, who had received his kingship from Rome. The Temple project greatly expanded the beauty and are around the Zerubbabel Temple. This made the religious Jewish group “happy” with him.

Power display: his greatness as a builder
Profits: Temple taxes and sacrifices sold in the Temple courtyard increased revenues.

Jesus Comes into the Temple

He is the true Holy Place of God.
He predicts the Temple’s destruction: Matt. 24
He is rejected, crucified, buried, resurrected.
The glory of God departs from Mt. of Olives.