

*“My Chia Pet, or God?”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. The early church leader **Augustine** was once accosted by a **heathen** who showed him **his idol** and said, “**Here is my god; where is thine?**” Augustine replied, “**I cannot show you my God; not because there is no God to show, but because you have no eyes to see Him.**”
- 1.2. Overview next few chapters(8-11):
  - 1.2.1. Here is a vision God gave to Ezekiel of the defilement of the **Temple**(8); the destruction of the **people**(9); & the departure of **God’s Glory** from His house(10,11).

## 2. **MY CHIA PET, OR GOD? (1-18)**

- 2.1. **HAIR PULLING!** (1-4)
- 2.2. (1) **Sitting w/the elders**- they considered him a prophet at least worth listening to?
- 2.3. 14 months after 1<sup>st</sup> vision...he falls into a prophetic trance. [Sept. 592bc]
  - 2.3.1. **He’s gripped by the power of a profound religious experience.**
    - 2.3.1.1. **How long we don’t know?** (comes out of it in 11:24,25)
  - 2.3.2. What did these other guys do?
- 2.4. This likeness was none other than a **theophany** of God.
  - 2.4.1. An appearance of God in human form.
  - 2.4.2. Picture a “man form” – bottom half looked like Fire; top half looked was bright(*Shekinah*) w/amber color.
- 2.5. (3) **By the lock of his hair?** – I guess he was *hair-borne*!
- 2.6. (3b) **Brought me in visions of God to...** – He didn’t physically take him from Babylon back to Jerusalem. [*He was supernaturally transported in the Spirit*]
- 2.7. (3c) **The image of jealousy** – i.e. it provokes God’s jealousy.
  - 2.7.1. **Deut. 32:31 “They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.”**
- 2.8. May have been the idol **Asherah**, the female fertility goddess.
  - 2.8.1. **Because earlier King Manasseh of Judah placed an idol of Asherah in the Temple.** [2 Kings 21:7. It was removed in Josiah’s day, but prob reappeared in these last sad days of the Temple’s history]
- 2.9. (4) **The Glory of God was there...**but soon to depart (10:18).

- 2.10. **MAKING GOD GO AWAY!** (5,6)
- 2.11. **SIN IN THE IN THE ENTRANCE!**
- 2.12. **North entrance** is where the animals came through for sacrificial offerings.
- 2.13. Reminds me of Genesis 4:7 “**Sin lies at the door & its desire is for you**”.
- 2.13.1. Sin is crouching at the door waiting to pounce on you!
- 2.14. **The people** were worshipping this idol.
- 2.14.1. **God was so angry that He is going to leave.** (rt now grief that will turn to anger)
- 2.14.2. They’re driving God out of His own house!!!
- 2.14.2.1. **In a separation of a husband & wife one is driven out of the house...what does that feel like to be driven from your home?**
- 2.14.3. Of course God would leave, its incongruous (not in agreement).
- 2.14.4. You can’t mix Israel’s God with other gods!
- 2.14.4.1. **Just as you can’t mix the oil & vinegar of Paul Newman’s Italian Dressing. You can try, but as soon as you walk away, it separates again.**
- 2.14.5. **A true Temple only has room for one god!**
- 2.14.5.1. Isn’t it equally true of the person whose **body** is God’s temple.
- 2.14.5.2. **Better to have the false presence removed, than have the True presence depart! {& if God wont depart from us...}**
- 2.14.6. **Therefore glorify God in your body & spirit, which are God's.** 1 Cor.6:20
- 2.15. Ezekiel saw the image “in the Temple” knowing immediately that the **1<sup>st</sup> commandment** had been broken.
- 2.15.1. Thus the natural result is the entire foundation of the faith becomes undermined.
- 2.16. **WHATCHA DOIN IN THE DARK?** (7-12)
- 2.17. **SIN IN THE HIDDEN CHAMBERS!**
- 2.18. (7-9) **Secret passageway – Do you have a secret passageway to sin in your life?**
- 2.18.1. **Blow up its entrance tonight!**
- 2.19. (10) **Creeping things** decorating the walls – inanimate murals decorating the room.
- 2.19.1. These included the “unclean” forbidden things.
- 2.19.2. They also included the animal cults that were worshiped in Egypt.
- 2.20. (11) The Jewish elders were burning incense to devilish images **inside** the Temple.
- 2.21. And look, a man of good family & distinction **Ja-azaniah** (his father Shapan, had played a leading role in Josiah’s great reform). (2 Kings 22:3-20)
- 2.21.1. **This indicates how sadly Israel’s faith had fallen.**
- 2.22. (12) They think God does not see. (Irony: Ezekiel “**have you seen**”)
- 2.23. **Q: What are you doing in the dark?**
- 2.23.1. What **can’t** an all-present God **not** see?

- 2.23.2. Life is like a **police interrogation room**. The insiders cannot see out, but the observers can see & hear all that goes on inside the room!
- 2.23.3. **Speech & behavior** should be conducted with an awareness that ultimately there are **no secrets** from God!
- 2.24. When the integrity of a nation's **leadership** is lost, there is not much hope for its **people**.
- 2.25. The Lord has forsaken the land – In what sense **true**? In what sense **false**?
- 2.25.1. **True** – from vs.6; **False** because God still is concerned.
- 2.26. **WEeping FOR YOUR CHIA PET!** (13,14)
- 2.27. (14) **Women weeping for Tammuz** – i.e. taking part in the heathen festival of mourning the death of the **vegetation god, Tammuz**, later known in Greek mythology as **Adonis** [A-don'-is]. [birth-death-rebirth]
- 2.27.1. **Tammuz** – was the **Sumerian** (*ancient Babylon*) **god of vegetation**. The people believed Tammuz **died** each year & descended into the underworld. The **heat of summer & wilting of the vegetation** depicted **Tammuz's death**. The people **wept** over Tammuz & in the spring, he **emerged** victorious from the underworld, bringing by the spring rains & emerging crops.
- 2.27.2. (Greek Mythology) The Festival of **Adonis** was celebrated by women at **midsummer** by sowing fennel and lettuce, and grains of wheat and barley. *The plants **sprang up soon, and withered quickly, and women mourned for the untimely death of the vegetation god.***
- 2.27.2.1. Kinda like the **Chia-Pet god!** - 1982 fad (1<sup>st</sup> a ram, now even have a Mr.T Chia Pet, Saddam Hussain Chia Pet)
- 2.28. How sad, weeping for another god!
- 2.29. **TURNING YOU BACK ON GOD!** (15-18)
- 2.30. **SIN IN THE INNER COURT!**
- 2.31. (16) **Between the porch & the altar** – They must have been **priests**.
- 2.31.1. Joel 2:17 **“Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar.”**
- 2.32. **Inner court** – Holy of Holies.
- 2.33. **25 men** – 24 courses of priests, & one high priest.
- 2.34. **With their back towards the temple** – This reveals their contempt for God by turning their backs to Him in violation to God's law.
- 2.34.1. Jeremiah said, **“They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline.”** (32:33)
- 2.34.2. Faces then are toward **the East**, bowing down to the sun in the East.

- 2.34.3. They should have faced **West** praying for God's mercy for His people.
- 2.34.4. **Wailing wall today** – the Jews walk backwards away from the wall in respect, always facing it. [Wailing Wall = closest accessible spot to the former Holy Place]
- 2.34.5. **Isn't all sin basically turning our backs to God instead of our faces?**
- 2.35. **Worshipping the sun to the East** - The very thing God frees them of they go running back to.
- 2.35.1. God frees **us** from different bondages, yet **the Christian** often returns to his old form of bondage. (prone to wander Lord I feel it...)
- 2.35.2. **The life of liberation called for continuing faith in the Great Liberator!**
- 2.36. **All humans are summoned to worship their Maker; not to do so, or to do so wrongly, is to miss the meaning of our existence!** (Barclay)
- 2.36.1. Thus it becomes evil & aground for judgment.
- 2.37. **Some worshipped idols *openly*; & others *in the dark*(12)...but *all* were guilty!**
- 2.37.1. When **sin** comes in at **the door** of a person's life, it eventually moves in to the **inner chambers** & takes over.
- 2.37.2. Prov.4:23 **"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring the issues of life.*"**
- 2.38. **End:** (Kelly asked me...**why don't we have prayer at end anymore?** – Good idea!)
- 2.38.1. Last 10/15 min on Wed nights, give opportunity for **prayer**.
- 2.38.2. **What it's not:**
- 2.38.3. Not a time to leave, & go get kids. They are not through w/service.
- 2.38.4. Not a time for counseling.
- 2.38.5. **What it is:**
- 2.38.6. It's our desire to go with you to His throne of grace!
- 2.38.7. We want to PRAY for you!
- 2.38.8. You can come up as couples also.
- 2.39. **Tonight: Ann Lizarraga, Johnnie Ann & Gilbert, Pastor Mike, & Pastor Rick.**