

Lament, O Brethren!

Pastor's Desk – November 7, 2021



"Are we disheartened to see what has become
of our country and its citizens?
Are we "crying out" against the ravages of
immorality among our loved ones and friends?
Or, gloomily, have we become accustomed to it,
numbed by constant contact with it,
or even unconcerned about it?
If Ezekiel 9 is by any means an implication,
it's about time to let God know where we stand!"

Excerpt from Pastor's Desk
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by Pr. Teddy Santos
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Ezekiel 9:4-7 "(4) and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." (5) To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. (6) Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple. (7) Then He said to them, "Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" And they went out and killed in the city."

The prophet's vision here in Ezekiel 9 records the marking of the individuals "*who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done*" and the slaying of those who do not. The Lord reveals to the prophet in verse 9: "*The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of bloodshed, and the city full of perversity; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'*". Now, what does it signify to "cry and sigh"?

In Hebrew, the word for "sigh" is '**ânah**', meaning "to sigh, groan, or gasp." A prominent commentator of the Old Testament explains: "Ezekiel's writings point to the exercise of heart on behalf of those who sighed over Israel's dire spiritual

condition." "Cry" is interpreted from **'ânaq**, which accurately implies "to shriek" but is also used for crying, lamenting, or groaning—these like-sounding words mean much the same thing. The distinction is: sighing is inward, while crying is an outer expression of our inner pain.

Are we disheartened to see what has become of our country and its citizens? Are we "crying out" against the ravages of immorality among our loved ones and friends? Or, gloomily, have we become accustomed to it, numbed by constant contact with it, or even unconcerned about it? If Ezekiel 9 is by any means an implication, it's about time to let God know where we stand!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos