

# Ezekiel 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

## Analysis

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Ezekiel recounts a dramatic moment: 'And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?' Pelatiah, one of the twenty-five wicked leaders named in verse 1, dies during Ezekiel's prophecy. Whether this occurred in actual Jerusalem simultaneously with Ezekiel's vision in Babylon, or symbolically within the vision, it demonstrates the certainty and immediate relevance of prophetic judgment.

Ezekiel's response—falling on his face and crying out—reveals pastoral heart despite being called to announce judgment. His question 'wilt thou make a full end?' shows concern that judgment might completely destroy Israel with no remnant. This tension between justice and mercy, between necessary judgment and hoped-for preservation, reflects the prophet's mediatorial role. True prophets grieve over judgment even while faithfully announcing it (Jeremiah 9:1, Luke 19:41-44).

From a Reformed perspective, this passage illustrates that God's electing grace ensures a remnant survives even the most severe judgments (Romans 9:27-29, 11:1-5). God's ultimate purpose isn't extinction but purification—removing dross to preserve refined remnant. Judgment serves redemptive ends, painful but

necessary for removing corruption and preserving covenant people through whom Messiah would eventually come.

## Historical Context

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Whether Pelatiah's death occurred literally during Ezekiel's vision or is visionary representation, it demonstrates judgment's certainty. Some scholars suggest Ezekiel's visions were observed by exiled elders (8:1, 20:1), making Pelatiah's death either miraculously known in real-time or symbolically portrayed. Either way, the point is clear—God's pronounced judgment is as certain as if already accomplished.

The theme of remnant theology becomes crucial throughout the prophets. Despite national judgment, God preserves a faithful remnant (Isaiah 10:20-22, Jeremiah 23:3, Micah 5:7-8). This remnant theology ultimately points to Christ and the church—the true Israel preserved through judgment and reconstituted around Messiah. Ezekiel's concern proves warranted but also answered: God will indeed preserve a remnant for His name's sake.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Ezekiel's pastoral grief over judgment model proper balance between proclaiming truth and compassion for the judged?
2. What does the doctrine of remnant teach about God's faithfulness to His promises despite widespread apostasy?
3. In what ways does concern for the remnant shape your evangelism and prayer for those facing judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי	וְהִנֵּה	בָּאִ	וְפָלֹטָה	הָיָה	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן
H1961	And it came to pass when I prophesied	H5012			H6410		H1121		H1141		
מֵת	וְנִפְלַטָּה	בְּלֹא	עַל	פָּנֶיךָ	וְאָצַע	לִפְנֵי	קֹל	וְלֹעֲדָה	בְּלֹעֲדָה	וְלֹעֲדָה	וְלֹעֲדָה
died	Then fell I down	H5921	upon my face	H6440		and cried	H2199	voice	H6963	with a loud	H1419
וַיֹּאמֶר	אָה	לְךָ	אָדָם	יְהוָה	כִּלְתָּה	אָתָּה	עֲשֵׂה	אַתָּה			
and said	Ah	Lord	GOD	a full end	H859	wilt thou make	H853				
H559	H162	H136	H3069	H3617			H6213				
וְשַׁבָּאֵל:	שְׁאֵר	יְהִ									
of the remnant	of Israel	H3478									
H7611											

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 11:1** (References Lord): Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

**Ezekiel 9:8** (References God): And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

**Acts 5:5** (Parallel theme): And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.