

turn away His wrath from their city, or at any rate, each man from himself.


In one of these visions — it is to be found in Ezekiel's ninth chapter — just after God had shown him how the glorious Temple itself, God's own house of prayer, was full of persons worshipping idols, the prophet beheld the destroyers, each with his weapon in his hand, gathered within the Temple, ready for the slaughter, and only waiting for the word. Then he saw a figure, clothed in linen, with an ink-horn by his side. Then a voice from the bright glory that betokened the Presence of God, spake and said,

‘Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark\* on the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.’

The same voice added, to those who held the slaughter weapons —

‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity. Slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.’

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\*[In Hebrew it is “set a tau,” and tau is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The old form of tau was  a cross.]