

EZEKIEL 20:1-44 – “THE REBELLIONS OF ISRAEL-PURGING OUT THE REBELS!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

THE PURGING OF THE REBELS:

Eze 20:1 It came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

Eze 20:2 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Eze 20:3 "Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Have you come to inquire of Me? As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I will not be inquired of by you."'"

Eze 20:4 Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Then make known to them the abominations of their fathers.

Eze 20:5 "Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, 'I am the LORD your God.'

Eze 20:6 On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands.

Eze 20:7 Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.'

Eze 20:8 But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'

Eze 20:9 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

Eze 20:10 "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

Eze 20:11 And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them.'

Eze 20:12 Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

INTERPRETATION

THE COMING OF THE ELDERS: (vs. 1-4)

1 In the seventh year (591BC) - Of the captivity of Jeconiah, (see Eze 8:1), and the seventh of the reign of Zedekiah. The fifth month, the tenth day - That is, according to Abp. Usher, Monday, August 27, A.M. 3411. Certain of the elders of Israel - What these came to inquire about is not known. They were doubtless hypocrites and deceivers, from the manner in which God commands the prophet to treat them. It seems to have been such a deputation of elders as those mentioned

2 He is not giving his word, he is giving God's Word.

3-4 These people are coming to complain and to criticize God. They say He is unfair to judge them and unfair to destroy Jerusalem. It is beginning to penetrate their thinking that it is really going to happen.

Ezekiel is going to go over this ground again with them because God does not mind stating His charge or reviewing His reasons for the judgment He is to bring.

THE CHOICE OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT DID NOT CAUSE THEM TO REPENT:(vs. 5-9)

5 God goes back to the very beginning when He called these people out of the land of Egypt, delivered them out of their slavery there, and brought them into the wilderness.

6 I had searched out for them - God speaks after the manner of men. Milk and honey - Literally milk and honey in abundance were in the land of Canaan. Proverbially it speaks the plenty and abundance of all the blessings of life.

7 Then said I to them, Throw away the abominations before his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. God had forbidden them to make mention of the idols,

8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken to me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, which declares the wickedness of man's heart, who judge God's service by their eyes and outward senses. Neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the nations, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known to them, in bringing them forth from the land of Egypt. God had ever this respect to his glory, that he would not have evil spoken of his Name among the Gentiles for the punishment that his people deserved, in confidence of which the godly ever prayed

THE COMMANDMENTS GIVEN TO THEM IN THE WILDERNESS DID NOT LEAD TO REPENTANCE: (vs. 10-26)

10 It was the Lord that brought them out from thence with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; that obliged Pharaoh to let them go, and gave them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, that they went out unmolested by them, before they went into the land of Canaan; here they had freedom from their bondage, and were in a wonderful manner provided for by the Lord, guided, supported, preserved, and at last brought to the promised land. (1 Cor. 10; Hebrews 3:7-19)

11 I showed them what they should do in order to be safe, comfortable, wise, and happy; and what they should avoid in order to be uninjured in body, mind, and possessions. Had they attended to these things, they should have lived by them. They would have been holy, healthy, and happy.

12 The religious observance of the Sabbath was the first statute or command of God to men. This institution was a sign between God and them, to keep them in remembrance of the creation of the world, of the rest that he designed them in Canaan, and of the eternal inheritance among the saints in light. Of these things the Sabbath was a type and pledge.

APPLICATION

Ezekiel, a priest and a prophet, was taken to Babylon as a captive in the second deportation around 597BC.

For the first 24 chapters, God tells us about the coming judgment of Jerusalem/(& Israel). Why so many chapters? So we can understand why He brings/brought judgment on unbelieving, idolatrous Israel and what is important to Him.

Note the applicability to the US today!!

v.1.Coming to inquire of the Lord, but their hearts were not right before Him. We must be willing to submit and to obey!

v. 3. The response of the Lord-I will not be inquired of by you!

v. 4. The recognition of their abominations was needed!

v. 5 He revealed Himself to them when they were in Egypt

v. 6 They were rescued from Egypt to the promised Land.

v. 7 They were reminded to get rid of all the Egyptian idols.

v. 8 They rebelled against the Lord

v. 9 The Lord removed them from Egypt

vs. 10-12 The Lord's presence was evident in all He gave them--statues and Sabbaths. In much of the church, there is too much of the world and its view in it!

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Eze 20:13 Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them.
Eze 20:14 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.
Eze 20:15 So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands,
Eze 20:16 because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.
Eze 20:17 Nevertheless My eye spared them from destruction. I did not make an end of them in the wilderness.
Eze 20:18 'But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols.
Eze 20:19 I am the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them;
Eze 20:20 hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.'
Eze 20:21 'Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness.
Eze 20:22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.
Eze 20:23 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries,
Eze 20:24 because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.
Eze 20:25 'Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live;
Eze 20:26 and I pronounced them unclean because of their ritual gifts, in that they caused all their firstborn to pass through the fire, that I might make them desolate and that they might know that I am the LORD.'

INTERPRETATION

13 They acted in the wilderness just as they had done in Egypt; and he spared them there for the same reason. (**Ex. 32; Numbers 25:3**)
14 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the nations, in whose sight I brought them out. Who might by it take an opportunity to blaspheme my Name and to accuse me of lack of ability, or else that I had sought a means to destroy them more conveniently.
15 Their provocations in the wilderness were so great, that I vowed never to bring them into the promised land. I did not consume them, but I disinherited them.
16 Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but profaned my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols. That is, my true religion, which I had commanded them, and gave themselves to serve me according to their own fantasies.
17 How marvelous that God should spare such sinners! His everlasting covenant explains it, His long-suffering standing out in striking contrast to their rebellions (Psa 78:38; Jer 30:11).
18 But I said to their children in the wilderness, Walk you not in the statutes of your fathers, by which the Holy Spirit confuses them that say that they will follow the religion and example of their fathers, and not measure their doings by God's word whether they are approved by it or not. Neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols.
19 Not only that had made them and preserved them, but had chose them above all people to be his people; who had made a covenant with them, and had distinguished them by his favors from all others. **walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;** which he had given unto their fathers, and they had neglected and despised.
20 **hallow my sabbaths.....** Or keep them holy, by abstaining from worldly business on them; by observing all the duties of religion, private and public, to be performed on such days: **and they shall be a sign between me and you;** of present and future. **that you may know that I am the Lord your God;** not only acknowledge him to be the Lord their God, by observing his laws, and sanctifying his sabbaths; but also have a larger experience of his grace and goodness, as their covenant God.
21 The next generation was rebellious also.
22 I had just lifted it up to crush them as in a moment; for they also were idolatrous, and walked in the steps of their fathers.
23 The predictions of the dispersion of Israel, delivered by Moses just before his death, are evidently here referred to: they received a partial accomplishment at the Babylonian captivity, but are more exactly fulfilling at this day.
24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had profaned my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols, meaning that they set their delight on them.
25 Wherefore I gave' them also statutes because they would not obey my laws, I gave them up to themselves that they should obey their own fantasies that were not good, and judgments by which they should not live.
26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through [the fire] all the firstborn, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD. I condemned those things, and counted them as abominable, which they thought had been excellent and to have declared most zeal, for that which God required as most excellent they gave to their idols.

APPLICATION

vs. 13-14 God's anger was poured out for their rebellion, but He really wants to bless us!

vs. 15-16 The Lord predicted that they would not enter the land.

v. 17 The promise of God's covenant kept Him from destroying them. He spared them from destruction!! Just like us!!!

vs. 18-20 The desired requirements of the Lord were given to their children.

vs. 21-24 The Lord's said the rebellion was similar to their parents.

vs. 25-26 God's reason for His anger and judgment. So many times people say, "God just leave me alone! Get off my case! This is what I want to do! Leave me alone!" God just continues to deal with you, and continues to speak to you, and continues to put barriers in your path, until you say, "God would you please leave me alone?" The worst thing that can ever happen to you is that, God listen to you, and just say, "Okay, I will." Then is when you know, tragedy! So that's basically what was happening here. They said, "God you know this is what we want to do. Just leave us alone. We're not interested in your statutes. These are the things we want to do." God said, "Okay, I'll give you up to them." "So I gave them also the statutes, I gave them up to the statutes." Which was not good! Sacrificing the first born children unto the god Molech. Psa 103:9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

EZEKIEL 20:1-44 – “THE REBELLIONS OF ISRAEL-PURGING OUT THE REBELS!”

OBSERVATION

Eze 20:27 "Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "In this too your fathers have blasphemed Me, by being unfaithful to Me.
Eze 20:28 When I brought them into the land concerning which I had raised My hand in an oath to give them, and they saw all the high hills and all the thick trees, there they offered their sacrifices and provoked Me with their offerings. There they also sent up their sweet aroma and poured out their drink offerings.
Eze 20:29 Then I said to them, 'What is this high place to which you go?' So its name is called Bamah to this day."
Eze 20:30 Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations?
Eze 20:31 For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I will not be inquired of by you.
Eze 20:32 What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'
Eze 20:33 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.
Eze 20:34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out.
Eze 20:35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face.
Eze 20:36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD.
Eze 20:37 "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;
Eze 20:38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
Eze 20:39 "As for you, O house of Israel," thus says the Lord GOD: "Go, serve every one of you his idols—and hereafter—if you will not obey Me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols.

INTERPRETATION

THEIR COMING INTO THE PROMISED LAND DID NOT CHANGE THEIR WICKED WAYS: -- If only we could get out of Egypt! If only we could get into the Promised Land!! (vs. 27-32)

27 It was an aggravation of their guilt that they defiled with idolatry the land given them for their glory.

28 For when I had brought them into the land, for which I lifted up my hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savor, and poured out there their drink offerings.

29 Then I said to them, What is the high place to which you go? And its name is called Bamah, (Ba=what;Mah=go -- going to the wrong place!) which signifies a high place, declaring that they vaunted themselves of their idolatry and were not ashamed of it, though God had commanded them expressly that they should have no altar lifted on high by stairs, to this day.¹

30 The present state of the people. Those who came to inquire were the representatives of the whole people though belonging to the exiles.

31 This shows the sense in which God says, Eze 20:26, "I polluted them in their own gifts." They chose to pollute themselves, and I permitted them to do so. And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that you say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and ⁽⁹⁾ stone.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT-REMOVAL OF THE REBELLIOUS -- purging the rebels! (vs.33-44)

33 The expressions "a mighty hand, stretched out arm" carry back the thoughts to Egyptian bondage Deu 4:34; Deu 5:15; but then it was for deliverance, now for judgment "with fury poured out."

34 God tells them that He intends to bring them back into the land. God's purpose with Israel will yet be fulfilled. He will someday be declared right by those who had said He was not right.

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I enter into judgment with you face to face. I will bring you among strange nations as into a wilderness and there will visit you, and so call you to repentance and then bring the godly home again, (Isa 65:9).

36 Though God saved them out of Egypt, He afterwards destroyed in the wilderness them that believed not (Jud 1:5); so, though He brought the exiles out of Babylon, yet their wilderness state of chastening discipline continued even after they were again in Canaan.

37 **To pass under the rod** - i. e., to be gathered into the flock Mic 7:14. **The bond** - The shepherd collects the flock, and separates the sheep from the goats, which are rejected. Compare Rom 11:7-11.

38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Signifying that he will not burn the corn with the chaff, but chose out the wicked to punish them when he will spare his.

39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD:² Go you, serve you every one his idols, and after this also, if you will not hearken to me: but profane ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. This

APPLICATION

vs. 27-28 Israel's practices were trespasses and blasphemies to Him. Instead of winning the Canaanites to the true and living God, Israel turned worship the false Canaanite gods!

v. 29 The high places (Bamah) they used for pagan worship

vs. 30-32 Their idolatry hindered God from answering them.

vs. 33-35 The return of the exiles

vs. 36-37 The reason behind the return

vs. 38-39 Removal of the rebels!

EZEKIEL 20:1-44 – “THE REBELLIONS OF ISRAEL-PURGING OUT THE REBELS!”

OBSERVATION

Eze 20:40 For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the first fruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.

Eze 20:41 I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles.

Eze 20:42 Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised My hand in an oath to give to your fathers.

Eze 20:43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed.

Eze 20:44 Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says the Lord GOD.' "

Questions: 1. T or F? Today's study seems to indicate that where you live (country, culture, circumstances) does indeed make a significant difference in one's behavior and their worship of God.

2. Do you see any similarity between Adam & Eve's behavior in the Garden of Eden and the Israelites' behavior toward the Lord, in Egypt, in the wilderness, and in the Promised Land?

3. What did God promise Israel over and over again, even though Israel continually rebelled against Him?

3. Did not the Lord say in chapter 18, the sons will not be held responsible for the sins of their fathers? What about verse 4 – *"Eze 20:4 Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Then make known to them the abominations of their fathers" Jer. 16:12.*

4. Does God once again show His grace and His mercy in today's study? How? (vs. 33-44)

5. Would you say living a carnal Christian's life is that which could be compared to the Israelite time in the wilderness? What relates to the Exodus? Crossing the Red Sea? To the crossing of the Jordan? To that of living in the Promised Land?

6. What did God give Israel before Egypt? (His everlasting oath) At the end of Egypt? (Their miraculous exodus/crossing the Red Sea) In the wilderness? (Statutes, judgments, sacrificial system, Sabbaths) In the Promised Land? (What will He do? - a purging of rebels)

INTERPRETATION

40 The days shall come in which all true Israelites shall receive Him whom I have sent to be the true sacrifice for the life of the world; and shall bring to Jerusalem - the pure Christian Church, their offerings, which I will there accept, for they will give me thanks for my unspeakable gift.

41 Sanctified - Magnified and praised for the good I do to my people.

42 The one only Jehovah, that keeps covenant; performs promises; is faithful to his word; is kind, gracious, and merciful, as well as mighty and powerful; and all this they shall experimentally know, and publicly own and acknowledge: **when I shall bring you into the land of Israel;** which will be the Lord's doing; his hand and his power will be signally seen in it; this is one of the places in prophecy, which clearly asserts that the Jews, when converted, shall be brought into their own land again, which he swore he would give unto them.

43 And there shall you remember your ways, and all your doings, in which you have been defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that you have committed. Your own consciences will convict you after you have felt my mercies.

44 Gratuitously; according to My compassion, not your merits. After having commented on this verse, Calvin was laid on his death bed, and his commentary ended.

APPLICATION

vs. 40-41 The restoration of godly worship; to serve the Lord and to sacrifice to the Lord only. Come to My mountain and worship Me. Bring your sacrifices and I will accept them! For the true believers who will accept the Messiah, God declares that He would accept them!!

vs. 42-44 The return of Israel. The purpose behind it and the place of it. The pain they will experience