Ezekiel 20

Robert Harkrider · Ezekiel 20

INTRODUCTION

- You can't store up righteousness, so to speak. And neither can a child inherit what the father does, either good or bad.
- It illustrates over and over again how Judah deserved the punishment that God was bringing upon him.

1 Certain of the Elders Came to Inquire of the Lord

Ezekiel 20:1; 2 Kings 24

- It came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders came to inquire of the Lord and sat before me.
- They're coming again and saying, hmm, the Lord have any more to say.
- People over in Babylon as well as in Jerusalem, really said they believed these both these men were inspired and men of God, but their words were not followed.

2 I Will Not Be Inquired of by You

Ezekiel 20:2–4; Ezekiel 20:31

- 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.
- Why would God respond like that? Because he's already told them multiple times.
- Their hearts were still full of rebellion, and so it rather hypocritical, really, to come and say, Ezekiel, tell us God's side of this.
- The most of this chapter from here point forward is a historical review. What has Israel been like?

3 Throw Away the Idols of Egypt

Ezekiel 20:5–7; 2 Thessalonians 2

- 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.
- Is that an impossible request? Is that too much? Is that hard to understand?
- God's word isn't that hard when you really want to do it. It's hard to understand when you don't want to do it.
- So it's so important that we examine our hearts in the mirror of God's word.

4 I Acted for My Name's Sake

Ezekiel 20:8–9; Numbers 14:11–23

- They come out of Egyptian bondage, and what proved that they really hadn't left their idolatry?
- This is verse 9, verse 14, and in verse 22. That statement is found three times in this chapter.

- Then the nations which have heard of your fame will speak, saying, Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which he swore to give them.

5 I Also Gave Them My Sabbaths as a Sign

Ezekiel 20:12; Exodus 31:13–17; Colossians 2:14–16

- You follow the laws of God, and there was God's blessing upon them. So you shall live by them.
- Moreover, I also gave them my Sabbaths. For what purpose? To be a sign between them and me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.
- The Sabbath was given as a sign between Israel and the Lord. No scripture teaches that it was given before this time, that is, for man to observe.
- These verses therefore, describe how God gave the Sabbath. He gave it to Israel. He gave it for their generations.
- You can't mistake that he was talking about the Ten Commandments when he says that which was written and engraved in stones. That was passing away.

6 I Gave Them Up; I Will Plead My Case

Ezekiel 20:25–26; Romans 1; Ezekiel 20:33–38

- Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good and judgments by which they could not live.
- Is He approving? Just the opposite, really. But I didn't keep them from it.
- God allows men, if you're going to pursue evil, he's not going to say, stop, can't do that. He allows us to make the choice of life.
- I'll make you pass under the rod, and I'll bring you into the bond of the covenant. I'll purge the rebels from among you.
- But is he purifying them? He is winnowing, you might say.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **People of the past as well as people of our day ought to read chapters like this and stop and think, How could God keep on allowing us to keep on keeping up?**

MY NOTES