

# Ezekiel 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

## Analysis

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The new heart enables covenant obedience: "That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God." The purpose clause "that they may walk" reveals that heart transformation produces behavioral transformation. The Reformed *ordo salutis* (order of salvation) appears: regeneration precedes sanctification; the new heart enables obedience rather than obedience earning the new heart. The covenant formula "they shall be my people, and I will be their God" emphasizes restored relationship as both the goal and context of obedience. Works follow faith; they don't produce it.

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel prophesied this transformation (592 BC) before the exile's darkest hour, offering hope of eventual restoration. The post-exilic community demonstrated renewed commitment to Torah, as seen in Ezra and Nehemiah. However, external conformity without internal transformation led to the legalism Jesus confronted in Pharisaism. The ultimate fulfillment came through Christ's atoning death establishing the New Covenant and the Spirit's outpouring enabling genuine obedience from transformed hearts. The early church experienced what Ezekiel prophesied—Gentiles and Jews united in covenant relationship through regenerating grace.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the sequence—new heart, then obedience—challenge legalistic approaches to Christian living?
2. What is the relationship between being God's people and walking in His statutes?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַשْ ۚ וְיִשְׁמַרْ ۚ וְיִלְכְּדָתْ ۚ בְּחֻקָּתִ ۚ וְאַתָּה ۚ יְלִכְּדָתْ ۚ מִשְׁפָּטْ ۚ וְיִשְׁמַרْ ۚ וְיִשְׁמַרْ ۚ וְיִשְׁמַרْ ۚ

H4616      in my statutes      H1980      H853      mine ordinances      and keep      and do  
H2708

לְעַם ۚ אֲהֵינוּ ۚ הָיָה ۚ וְיִהְיֶה ۚ אַתָּה ۚ

H853      H1961      H0      them and they shall be my people      H589      H1961      H0

H5971

לְאֱלֹהִים:

and I will be their God

H430

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 14:11** (References God): That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

**Psalms 105:45** (Parallel theme): That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the LORD.

**Jeremiah 30:22** (References God): And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

**Jeremiah 31:33** (References God): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Luke 1:6** (References God): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

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