

# Ezekiel 20

Chapter 20 of 48 · 49 Verses · Authorized King James Version

---

## Israel's History of Rebellion

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

<sup>2</sup> Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying,

<sup>3</sup> Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

<sup>4</sup> Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

<sup>5</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God;

<sup>6</sup> In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

<sup>7</sup> Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

<sup>8</sup> But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, 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 polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

**10** Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

**11** And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

**12** Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

**13** But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

**14** But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

**15** Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

**16** Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

**17** Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

**18** But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:

**19** I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

**20** And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

**21** Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

**22** Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

**23** I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

**24** Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

**25** Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

**26** And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD.

**27** Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

**28** For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine 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 savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

**29** Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

**30** Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

**31** For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

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

**33** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

**34** And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

**35** And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

**36** Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

**37** And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

**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.

**39** As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

**40** For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

**41** I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

**42** And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

**43** And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

**44** And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

**45** Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

**46** Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop thy word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field;

**47** And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

**48** And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

**49** Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?

## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

### Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

### Forgive — נָשָׂא / סָלַח (Salach / Nasa)

To forgive, pardon, lift up

The Hebrew **salach** (סָלַח) is used exclusively of God's forgiveness—divine pardon that only He can grant. **Nasa** (נָשָׂא) means to lift up or carry away, picturing sin being removed.

### God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

### Holy — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

### Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

### Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

### Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

### Sanctify — קָדַשׁ (Qadash)

To set apart, make holy

The Hebrew **qadash** (קָדַשׁ) means to set apart or consecrate—separating something for God's sacred purposes. God sanctified the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) and calls His people to 'be holy; for I am holy' (Leviticus 11:44).

### Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

### Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

## CROSS REFERENCES

**Ezekiel 20:1**    **References Lord:** Ezekiel 8:1; 24:1; 26:1; 29:1; 29:17; 30:20; 31:1; 32:1; 40:1.

**Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 1:2

**Ezekiel 20:3**    **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 28:9. **References God:** Micah 3:7

**Ezekiel 20:4**    **Judgment:** Ezekiel 22:2; 23:36

**Ezekiel 20:5**    **References Lord:** Exodus 4:31. **References Egypt:** Exodus 3:8. **References God:** Genesis 14:22; Deuteronomy 7:6. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:15; 20:23; 47:14

### **Ezekiel 20:6**

**Glory:** Ezekiel 20:15. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 33:3; Psalms 48:2; Jeremiah 32:22; Daniel 8:9; Zechariah 7:14. **References Egypt:** Exodus 3:8

**Ezekiel 20:7**    **References Egypt:** Ezekiel 20:8; 23:8; Leviticus 18:3. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:15; 18:31; Exodus 20:4; Isaiah 31:7. **References God:** Exodus 16:12; 20:2; Leviticus 11:44

**Ezekiel 20:8**    **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 5:13; 7:8; 20:13; 20:21; Isaiah 63:10. **References Egypt:** Ezekiel 20:7; Deuteronomy 9:7

### **Ezekiel 20:9**

**Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:14; 20:22; 39:7; Deuteronomy 9:28; 1 Samuel 12:22. **References Egypt:** Exodus 32:12; 1 Samuel 4:8

### **Ezekiel 20:11**

**Parallel theme:** Luke 10:28; Romans 10:5; Galatians 3:12. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 20:13; Leviticus 18:5; Deuteronomy 4:8

### **Ezekiel 20:12**

**References Lord:** Ezekiel 20:20; 37:28; Leviticus 21:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

**Ezekiel 20:13**    **Judgment:** Ezekiel 20:21; 20:24; Exodus 32:10; Deuteronomy 9:8. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:8; Numbers 14:22; 14:29; Isaiah 56:6

**Ezekiel 20:14**    **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:9; 20:22

**Ezekiel 20:15**    **Parallel theme:** Psalms 95:11; 106:26

**Ezekiel 20:16** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:8; Numbers 15:39

**Ezekiel 20:17** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 11:13; Jeremiah 4:27; 5:18

**Ezekiel 20:18** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:7; 1 Peter 1:18

**Ezekiel 20:19** **Judgment:** Ezekiel 36:27; 37:24; Deuteronomy 11:1; 12:1. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 8:1; Psalms 105:45. **References God:** Ezekiel 11:20

**Ezekiel 20:20**

**References Lord:** Ezekiel 20:12; Isaiah 58:13. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 44:24; Jeremiah 17:22

**Ezekiel 20:21** **Judgment:** Ezekiel 20:13. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:8; Numbers 21:5; Deuteronomy 31:27

**Ezekiel 20:22**

**Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:9; 20:14; 20:17; Job 13:21; Psalms 78:38; Jeremiah 14:7; 14:21

**Ezekiel 20:23** **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 26:33

**Ezekiel 20:24** **Judgment:** Ezekiel 20:13; 20:16. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 6:9; Amos 2:4

**Ezekiel 20:25**

**Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:26; 20:39; Deuteronomy 28:36; Psalms 81:12; Isaiah 66:4

**Ezekiel 20:26** **References Lord:** Ezekiel 6:7; 20:31; Exodus 13:12; Leviticus 18:21; 2 Kings 17:17; 21:6; Isaiah 63:17; Luke 2:23. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 19:9; 32:35

**Ezekiel 20:27**

**References God:** Ezekiel 3:11; 3:27; Romans 2:24. **References Israel:** Ezekiel 3:4. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 2:7

**Ezekiel 20:28**

**Sacrifice:** Ezekiel 6:13. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 23:14; Jeremiah 3:6. **Creation:** Jeremiah 2:7

**Ezekiel 20:30** **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 7:26; 16:12. **References God:** Judges 2:19

**Ezekiel 20:31** **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 7:31. **References Lord:** Ezekiel 20:26

**Ezekiel 20:32** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 11:5; Deuteronomy 4:28; Jeremiah 44:17; Daniel 5:4; Revelation 9:20



### **Ezekiel 20:33**

**Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 8:18; Jeremiah 21:5; 44:6. **References God:** Jeremiah 42:18

**Ezekiel 20:34** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:38; 34:16

**Ezekiel 20:35** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 17:20; 19:13; 20:36; Jeremiah 2:35; Hosea 2:14

**Ezekiel 20:36** **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:13; 20:21

**Ezekiel 20:37** **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 27:32; Jeremiah 33:13

### **Ezekiel 20:38**

**Parallel theme:** Psalms 95:11; Jeremiah 44:14. **References Lord:** Ezekiel 6:7; 11:21; 13:9; 15:7; 23:49; Psalms 9:16; Malachi 3:3

**Ezekiel 20:39** **Holy:** Ezekiel 43:7. **Parallel theme:** Hosea 4:17. **References God:** Judges 10:14

**Ezekiel 20:40** **Holy:** Isaiah 56:7; 1 Peter 2:5. **Sacrifice:** Ezekiel 43:27; Isaiah 60:7; Malachi 3:4; Hebrews 13:15. **References Lord:** Isaiah 66:23. **References Israel:** Ezekiel 17:23

### **Ezekiel 20:41**

**Holy:** Ezekiel 28:22; 28:25; Isaiah 5:16. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 11:17; 38:23; Jeremiah 23:3; 30:3; 32:37

**Ezekiel 20:42** **References Israel:** Ezekiel 34:13. **References Lord:** Ezekiel 38:23

**Ezekiel 20:43** **Evil:** Ezekiel 6:9; 36:31. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 31:18; Hosea 5:15

**Ezekiel 20:44** **References God:** Ezekiel 24:24. **References Lord:** Psalms 115:1. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:9; 20:14; 20:22; Ephesians 1:6; 1 Timothy 1:16

**Ezekiel 20:46** **Word:** Ezekiel 21:2; Amos 7:16. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 13:19

### **Ezekiel 20:47**

**References Lord:** Ezekiel 17:24; Jeremiah 21:14. **Parallel theme:** Luke 23:31

**Ezekiel 20:49** **Parallel theme:** John 16:25

