

Ezekiel 20:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' Precise dating (August 591 BC) marks this as a significant prophetic moment. Elders come to 'enquire of the LORD' (darash YHWH) through Ezekiel, seeking divine guidance. Their sitting before the prophet indicates formal consultation. However, God will refuse to be inquired of because of their persistent idolatry.

Historical Context

This was six years into Ezekiel's ministry and five years after the first deportation (597 BC). The elders still hoped for Jerusalem's deliverance and quick return from exile. They sought prophetic reassurance while continuing in idolatry—wanting God's blessing without repentance.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do we sometimes seek God's guidance while clinging to sin?
2. What does God's refusal to answer teach about the prerequisites for divine consultation?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁנָה הַזֹּאת יוֹ	הַשְּׁבִיעִי יָת	בְּחֵמְשֵׁי	בְּעֵשְׂרִי	וּ	
<div>H1961</div> <div>year</div> <div>H8141</div>	<div>And it came to pass in the seventh</div> <div><div>H7637</div></div>	<div>in the fifth</div> <div><div>H2549</div></div>	<div>month the tenth</div> <div><div>H6218</div></div>		
לַחֹדֶשׁ	בָּאוּ	אֲנָשִׁים יְמִינִי	מִזִּקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְדַרְשׁוֹ אֶת	
<div>day of the month</div> <div><div>H2320</div></div>	<div>came</div> <div><div>H935</div></div>	<div>that certain</div> <div><div>H582</div></div>	<div>of the elders</div> <div><div>H2205</div></div>	<div>of Israel</div> <div><div>H3478</div></div>	<div>to enquire</div> <div><div>H853</div></div>
יְהוָה	וַיֵּשֶׁב	לִפְנֵי:			
<div>of the LORD</div> <div><div>H3068</div></div>	<div>and sat</div> <div><div>H3427</div></div>	<div>before</div> <div><div>H6440</div></div>			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 8:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.

Ezekiel 40:1 (References Lord): In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither.

Ezekiel 26:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 29:17 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 29:1 (References Lord): In the tenth year, in the tenth month, in the twelfth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 31:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 32:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 24:1 (References Lord): Again in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 1:2 (Parallel theme): In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

Ezekiel 30:20 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,