

Ezekiel 20:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' Tragic repetition: the second generation also rebelled. Same sins (despising statutes, polluting Sabbaths), same divine response (fury ready to pour out). The pattern repeats, demonstrating human depravity and need for heart transformation (anticipated in Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Historical Context

Even the conquest generation showed periodic rebellion (Achan's sin, compromise with Canaanites). The book of Judges documents the cyclical pattern: sin, oppression, crying out, deliverance, and return to sin. Human nature requires divine intervention for lasting transformation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why do we repeat patterns of rebellion despite knowing the consequences?
2. How does recognizing our inability to maintain faithfulness drive us to dependence on God's transforming grace?

Interlinear Text

רֹבֵל	H0	בַּתְּנִינָה	H1121	בְּתֻקּוֹת	H3808
rebelled	H4784	Notwithstanding the children		not in my statutes	
against me they walked	H1980	H853	my judgments	H3808	neither kept
		H4941		H8104	do
					H6213
אָוֶת	H853	וַיֵּשֶׁן	H834	פְּאָדָם	H120
do	H6213	the	H853	them which if a man	H2425
		אָשֶׁר		he shall even live	
שְׁבָתוֹת	H0	וְלֹא	H853	צָאָמָר	H559
my sabbaths	H7676	in them they polluted	H2490	then I said	H8210
				I would pour out	
עֲלֵיכֶם	H5921	לְכָל וְתַ	H3615	בְּ	H0
upon them to accomplish				אָפִי	
my fury	H2534			my anger	
בְּמִדְבָּרָה	H4057				
against them in the wilderness					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:13 (Judgment): 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.

Ezekiel 20:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Numbers 21:5 (Parallel theme): And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Deuteronomy 31:27 (Parallel theme): For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?

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