

# 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

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'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

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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

וַיִּמְרוּ בִּי הַבָּנִים יְהוָה לֹא בְחֻקֹּתַי  
**rebelled** <sup>H0</sup> **Notwithstanding the children** <sup>H1121</sup> **not in my statutes** <sup>H2708</sup> <sup>H3808</sup>

יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁמִרָתִי לֹא מִשְׁפָּטַי וְאֶת הָלְכוֹ  
**against me they walked** <sup>H1980</sup> <sup>H853</sup> **my judgments** <sup>H4941</sup> <sup>H3808</sup> **neither kept** <sup>H8104</sup> **do** <sup>H6213</sup>

וְחַיֵּם הָאָדָם אֹתָם יַעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר אֹתָם  
<sup>H853</sup> <sup>H834</sup> **do** <sup>H6213</sup> <sup>H853</sup> **them which if a man** <sup>H120</sup> **he shall even live** <sup>H2425</sup>

לִשְׁפֹךְ וְאָמַר חָלְלוּ שַׁבָּתוֹתַי אֶת בָּהֶם  
<sup>H0</sup> <sup>H853</sup> **my sabbaths** <sup>H7676</sup> **in them they polluted** <sup>H2490</sup> **then I said** <sup>H559</sup> **I would pour out** <sup>H8210</sup>

בִּי אָפִי לְכָל אוֹת עָלֵיהֶם חֲמָתִי  
**my fury** <sup>H2534</sup> <sup>H5921</sup> **upon them to accomplish** <sup>H3615</sup> **my anger** <sup>H639</sup> <sup>H0</sup>

בַּמִּדְבָּר:  
**against them in the wilderness** <sup>H4057</sup>

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?