

Ezekiel 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' God's shocking refusal to answer. The oath formula 'As I live' emphasizes certainty. 'I will not be enquired of by you' rejects their consultation. The reason becomes clear in subsequent verses: persistent idolatry makes their inquiry hypocritical. God won't play along with religious pretense while they harbor rebellion.

Historical Context

This echoes other instances where God refused to answer due to sin: Saul consulting Samuel's spirit (1 Samuel 28), God's silence to Saul (1 Samuel 28:6), and refusal to hear Israel's prayers (Isaiah 1:15, Jeremiah 11:11). Unconfessed sin blocks communion with God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What attitudes or sins block our prayers and seeking God?
2. How do we move from religious formality to genuine repentance that opens communication with God?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּה מִ אָמַר יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתְּ דָבָר אֲדֹם בָּן
Son of man speak unto the elders of Israel and say H413
H1121 H120 H1696 H853 H2205 H3478 H559 H1121

אַתְּ מִ אַתְּ אָדָם אֲדֹם שֶׁ אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אָמַר
and say the Lord I will not be enquired H853 H859
H3541 H559 H136 H3068 H1875 H1875

תָּאָמַן לֹכֶד בָּאָיִם אָמַן אֲנִי כִּי אָמַן אֲנִי שֶׁ אָמַן
Are ye come of me As I live I will not be enquired saith H5002
H935 H2416 H518 H1875 H0

יְהוָה אָדָם
the Lord H3068
H136

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:9 (Parallel theme): He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Micah 3:7 (References God): Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

