

# Ezekiel 20:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

'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.' The exiles fantasized about abandoning Yahweh worship entirely and becoming like pagan nations. 'That which cometh into your mind' indicates deliberate consideration of apostasy. 'Serve wood and stone' describes idolatry with contempt. God declares this will 'not be at all'—He won't let them go. Though judgment comes, God will preserve a remnant and restore them. His covenant commitment outlasts their unfaithfulness.

## Historical Context

Some exiles in Babylon evidently wanted to fully assimilate, abandoning distinctive covenant identity. This tension between assimilation and faithfulness appears throughout Jewish diaspora history. God's refusal to let them go completely anticipates restoration prophecies (Ezekiel 36-37) and New Covenant promises.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What temptations to spiritual compromise or assimilation do believers face?
2. How does God's commitment to preserve His people provide hope even in judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָלָה	עַל	רִוְצָם	לֹא	תָּהִי	תָּהִי	לֹא	תָּהִי	תָּהִי
<b>And that which cometh</b>	H5921	<b>into your mind</b>		<b>We will be</b>	H3808	<b>We will be</b>		
	H5927		H7307		H1961		H1961	
אַתָּם אֲשֶׁר	אָמַר יְמִינְךָ	תָּהִי הָעָם	כְּגֹויִם					
H834	H859	shall not be at all that ye say		<b>We will be</b>		<b>as the heathen</b>		
		H559		H1961		H1471		
כְּמַשְׁפָּחָה וְתִּבְאַצְתָּה	לְשָׁרֶת	עַץ	יאָבִן					
<b>as the families</b>	<b>of the countries</b>	<b>to serve</b>	<b>wood</b>	<b>and stone</b>				
H4940	H776	H8334	H6086	H68				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 44:17** (Parallel theme): But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

**Ezekiel 11:5** (Parallel theme): And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.

**Revelation 9:20** (Parallel theme): And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

**Deuteronomy 4:28** (Parallel theme): And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

**Daniel 5:4** (Parallel theme): They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.