

“Passing Under the Rod”  
Ezekiel 20:32-49

v. 32a Q. What were the people saying?

A. “We want to be \_\_\_\_\_ the nations who serve wood and stone.”

Q. What is God's response to their foolish request?

A. “But what you have in mind will \_\_\_\_\_ happen?”

Q. Read the following exhortations. What is consistent?

Leviticus 18:3-4

Matthew 6:7-8

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 6:16c-17

A. God is always calling His people to \_\_\_\_\_ with the world around them. He is constantly calling them to “come out and separate themselves.”

Q. Read the following verses. How does the character of God fit into His response?

Exodus 34:14

Deuteronomy 6:14-15

A. God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God – not in a sinful \_\_\_\_\_ or controlling way but in His \_\_\_\_\_ love for his people.

v. 33 Q What does this verse mean?

<sup>33</sup> “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will reign over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.” (Ezek. 20:33 NIV)

A. It means that God's heavy hand of \_\_\_\_\_ will be on them until they \_\_\_\_\_ to His will and not the will of the national false gods (demons).

v. 34 Q. What is the hope found in this verse?

<sup>34</sup> “I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered-- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.” (Ezek. 20:34 NIV)

A. God will bring them \_\_\_\_\_ to the land after scattering them.

Note the present judgment \_\_\_\_\_ for emphasis.

v. 35 Q. What does God say He will do to His people?

A.

<sup>35</sup> “I will bring you into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations and there, face to face, I will \_\_\_\_\_ judgment upon you.” (Ezek. 20:35 NIV)

Q. What does this mean/

A.

1. Some scholars believe that this a \_\_\_\_\_ wilderness such as Arabia. But the problem with this is that they are “\_\_\_\_\_” and not in one place like the Exodus.

2. Most scholars believe that this is speaking \_\_\_\_\_ as a place of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ wherever they settle for God's judgment is not confined to any one place.

v. 36 Q. What is the comparison?

A. Judgment upon the \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

v. 37 Q. What does God say He will do next? What is the metaphor being used?

A. "I will make \_\_\_\_\_ of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant."

Note: To "pass under the rod" was a turn that shepherds used to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ their flock as it went into the sheep fold or as they left. The shepherd would stand at the gate with his rod over the door so that he could \_\_\_\_\_ inspect each sheep that passed under it. So, this metaphor was used to say that God would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel and \_\_\_\_\_ that they were part of His flock. And upon verification, He would bring them into an official relationship with Himself.

V. 38a/b Q. How does the above metaphor relate to this verse.

<sup>38</sup> I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. (Ezek. 20:38 NIV)

A. God knows his own and will \_\_\_\_\_ out those who are not His. The rebellious will be exiled but they will not come back home.

- Q. Read John 10:1-18. How does this passage relate to this?
- A. The sheep \_\_\_\_\_ to the shepherd's voice. He calls them by name. They know his \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ that all must go through, or they are not his. Jesus is the good \_\_\_\_\_ who lays down his life for the sheep. He knows his sheep and they know him.
- v. 38c Q. What is the common purpose stated for doing such things?
- A. Then you will \_\_\_\_\_ that I am the Lord.
- v. 39a Q. What does God encourage them to do?
- A. Go and \_\_\_\_\_ your false idols!
- v. 39b Q. What will they, with certainty, do?
- A. They will \_\_\_\_\_ to God and no longer \_\_\_\_\_ his name with their unprescribed gifts and idols.
- v. 40a/b Q. Review chapters 5-7. Remember the "high places"? So, what is the significance of this movement of Israel?
- A. There is a high place that is \_\_\_\_\_ for worshipping the Lord. It is \_\_\_\_\_, the holy mountain of God.
- Q. What will they do there?
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ God by offering the \_\_\_\_\_ offerings and choice gifts along with the holy sacrifices.
- Q. What two things would this have restored biblically?
- A.
1. A way of \_\_\_\_\_ being right with the Lord (per His system).

2. A continuous realization \_\_\_\_\_ that one could never be right with God through this system. Cp Hebrews 9: 9-14.

v. 41 Q. How does God describe them (in their future return)?

A. As a \_\_\_\_\_ incense and \_\_\_\_\_ (separate) from the other nations.

v. 42 Q. What again...is the common purpose for doing such things?

A. Then you will \_\_\_\_\_ that I am the Lord.

Q. What is that knowledge tied to?

A. Their \_\_\_\_\_ to the land.

v. 43 Q. What is the hope filled realization?

A. That they will \_\_\_\_\_ their defiled ways and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves for all the evil that they did.

v. 44 Q. What again...is the common purpose?

A. You will \_\_\_\_\_ that I am the Lord.

Q. What is this knowledge tied to?

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His glorious name among the nations, and not according to your \_\_\_\_\_ practices.

### **The Forest Fire**

v. 45 Q. What does God ask Ezekiel to do?

A. Set your face toward the \_\_\_\_\_ (toward former Israel occupied land).

Q. And....?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ against the south and prophesy against the forest of the south.

Note: We have \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ where this is as a massive afforestation effort has been ongoing since the establishment of the state of Israel. In Arabic the south (Negev) was called, "Nahabir" or "bad lands."

v. 47 Q. What does God say would happen to it?

A.

1. God was going to set it on \_\_\_\_\_ consuming all the trees both green and dry.
2. The flame would not be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Every face from south to north will be \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

Note: This could also be taken \_\_\_\_\_ as the judgment of God on all those who thought they were \_\_\_\_\_ but would be consumed by the enemies of God.

v. 48 Q. What would be the witness?

A. Everyone will see that God \_\_\_\_\_ it and that it was \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 49 Q. What was the response of the exiles hearing this?

A. They said, "Isn't Ezekiel just telling us parables/ \_\_\_\_\_?"

Application questions:

Q. How does God often stand in the way of our foolish sinfulness?

A.

Q. Why is hope so monumental in our suffering?

A.

Q. Sometimes God gives us hope while we are still rebellious. Why?

A.