

"I'm Not Listening"
Ezekiel 20:1-31

- v. 1 Q. What is the date of this revelation?
- A. It is the _____ year of their deportation, in the fifth month of the year, on the tenth day. [July/August, 591 B.C.]
- Q. Again...why the specificity?
- A. Historical _____ of the account.
- Q. What is described as taking place?
- A. Some of the _____ of Israel came to inquire of the Lord and sat down in front of me. Cp. 14:1

Note: Rashi [French Medieval Jewish scholar; 11th c.] has some interesting thoughts on this. If a master has _____ his slave, then he has no more _____ to speak into his life. If God speaks to their inquiry, there is still _____. If not, they have been sold to the slavery of their own sin.

- v. 2 Q. What happened next?
- A. The _____ of the Lord came to me.
- v. 3 Q. What does God say?
- A. Tell the elders, "Have you come to ask a question of me? I legally swear, there is _____ am I answering you."

Regarding God's self-oath read:

Genesis 22:15-16

Jeremiah 22:5

Hebrews 6:13 - 16,

v. 4 Q. What was Ezekiel called to do?

A.

1. _____ the nation.
2. _____ them with the detestable abominations of their ancestors [that continues to his present day].

Disobedience in Egypt

v. 5a Q. What did God say?

A.

1. He reminds them of His _____, i.e., "I chose you."
2. He reminds them that He took a legal _____ toward the descendants of Jacob, i.e., original prophetic _____ blessing.
3. He reminds them that He _____ Himself to the people in Egypt, i.e., in a place of bondage/_____.

v. 5b 4. He reminds them that He took a legal oath of personal _____, i.e., "I am the Lord your God."

v. 6 Q. What did the oath entail?

A. That He would bring them out of slavery into a very _____ land full of _____.

v. 7 Q. What was the divine command?

A.

1. Each of you get rid of the _____ images you have set your eyes on, and do not _____ yourselves with idols.
2. This is based on the personal _____ oath.

v. 8a Q. What was the problem?

A.

1. The _____ against God and would not listen to Him.
2. They did not get rid of their _____ images or their Egyptian _____.

v. 8b Q. What was the result?

A. God poured out His _____ upon them in Egypt.

v. 9 Q. Why didn't God destroy them?

A. It was to keep His _____ from being _____ among the other nations.

Read the interaction later on between Moses and God in Numbers 14:11-16.

Q. What is noticeably absent as a reason?

Read Deuteronomy 7:7-9.

A.

Disobedience in the Wilderness

v. 10 Q. Where is the next example of disobedience located?

A. In the _____/wilderness.

v. 11 Q. What does God give His people?

A.

Q. What is meant by the last statement?

Note: Some translations have, "for the man who obeys them will live" (CEB) or more literally, "for the man who obeys them will live in them."

Read Leviticus 18:1-5 with Galatians 3:10-12.

A. It was a _____ statement that could never be attained by _____. It was an indictment of the _____ of man to keep the Law, but a tool to help him see his need for an _____ new covenant.

- v. 12 Q. What else did God give to His people?
A. God gave them His _____ rests. (Lev. 23)
- Q. For what purpose?
A. So, they would know that Yahweh made them _____ (set apart from other people). Cp. Lev. 19:2

v. 13a Q. What was their response?

- A.
1. They _____ against God.
 2. They did not _____ His decrees and _____ His laws.

Note the repeated “_____” phrase as an indictment.

3. They utterly _____ His Sabbaths.

v. 13b Q. What did God say He would do in response?

- A. He would _____ out His wrath on them and _____ them.

v. 14 Q. What is the repeated reason for being merciful?

- A. For His name's _____ among the surrounding nations.

v. 15 Q. What further oath does God make? Cp. v. 6 (opposite)

- A. God would not bring those _____ individuals into the promised land.

- v. 16 Q. What additional information do we receive on the “why?” (repeat of 13b but the sin of v. 8).
- A. For their hearts were _____ to their idols.
- v. 17 Q. How was mercy extended?
- A.
1. God looked upon them with _____ and didn't destroy all of them.
- v. 18
2. God extended the _____ to their children to keep the decrees and laws, and to not defile themselves with idols.
- v. 19
3. God renewed the personal _____ with them.
- v. 20a
4. God called them to _____ his Sabbaths as a covenant _____ between them.
- v. 20b Q. What was the common desire of God?
- A. That they would know that He was the Lord _____ God.
- v. 21a Q. And...for the third time...what was their response?
- A. They did not _____ my decrees or _____ my laws or keep my Sabbaths.
- v. 21b Q. And...again...how does God respond?
- A. He pours out His _____ upon them.
- v. 22 Q. And...again...how does God show mercy?
- A. He withholds His _____ destruction because of His _____ among the surrounding nations.

v. 23 Q. What is different about God's punishment with the children (future adults)?

A. God was going to _____ them among the nations and _____ them through the countries.

v. 24 Q. And...again...why is God doing this?

A. _____ the law, _____ the decrees, _____ the Sabbaths, and _____ after their father's idols.

v. 25 Q. What additional thing does God do?

A. He _____ to statutes that were _____ and laws that they could not live by.

v. 26 Q. What else does God allow?

A. God let them be defiled through the _____ of their children in worship of false gods.

Q. For what purpose?

A. That He might fill them with _____ so they might know that He is the Lord.

v. 27 Q. How does God bring this up to the present?

A. Your _____ forsook me as well.

v. 28 Q. How was that manifested?

A. They established _____ centers on every high place – sacrificing, presenting fragrances, and drink offerings to _____ me to anger.

- v. 29 Q. What is God doing in this verse?
 A. Calling them _____ on their false worship? Defend this?
- v. 30 Q. What is the current pressing question to the exiles?
 A. Will you _____ yourselves the way your fathers did and _____ after vile images?
- v. 31a Q. What abominable action does God single out?
 A. The sacrifice of the _____ as an act of worship to false gods.
- v. 32 Q. We've come back to the initial question. What is it?
 A. Should I let you _____ of me?
- Q. And the answer is?
 A. _____

Application questions:

- Q. This is a chapter full of unfortunate redundancy? What can we learn from it?
 A.
1. God gives us _____ to live a _____ life with Him and others.
 2. We often _____ this in one way or another.
 3. God will _____.
 4. God is _____.

5. God will always _____ His Name from being _____.

6. We need a generational _____ of sin; it starts with each one of _____.

Q. How is God's abandonment of a people reflected in their laws?

A.

1. He _____ to statutes that are not good and laws that they cannot live by.

Q. What is one law that should bring horror to us? Should....

A. _____.

Q. What can we learn from Psalm 66:18-20?

¹⁸ "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

¹⁹ but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.

²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!" (Ps. 66:18-20 NIV)

A.

1. If I love my _____ more than God, He will _____ hear my prayers.

2. If I love _____ more than my sin, He _____ hear me.

3. God will not _____ my prayer or _____ His love from me.