

### The Rebellions of Israel

1 It came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of Yahweh (the Lord), and sat before me.

2 Then the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

3 "Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Have you come to inquire of Me? As I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "I will not be inquired of by you."'

4 Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Then make known to them the abominations of their fathers.

5 "Say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, 'I am Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God).'

6 On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands.

7 Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God).'

8 But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'

9 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

10 "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

11 And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, '**which, if a man does, he shall live by them.**' [Leviticus 18:5, Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21, Matthew 19:17]

12 Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am Yahweh (the Lord) who sanctifies them.

13 Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, '**which, if a man does, he shall live by them**'; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them.

14 But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.

15 So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands,

16 because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

17 Nevertheless My eye spared them from destruction. I did not make an end of them in the wilderness.

18 "But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols.'

19 I am Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God): Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them;

20 hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God).'

21 "Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, '**which, if a man does, he shall live by them**'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness.

22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.

23 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries,

24 because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.

25 "Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live;

26 and I pronounced them unclean because of their ritual gifts, in that they caused all their firstborn to pass through the fire, that I might make them desolate and that they might know that I am Yahweh (the Lord)."

27 "Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "In this too your fathers have blasphemed Me, by being unfaithful to Me.

28 When I brought them into the land concerning which I had raised My hand in an oath to give them, and they saw all the high hills and all the thick trees, there they offered their sacrifices and provoked Me with their offerings. There they also sent up their sweet aroma and poured out their drink offerings.

29 Then I said to them, 'What is this high place to which you go?' So its name is called Bamah to this day."

30 Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations?

31 For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "I will not be inquired of by you.

32 What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'

### God Will purge away evil and Restore Israel For The Rod of Iron Kingdom

33 "As I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.

34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out.

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face.

36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead

My case with you," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God).

37 "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;  
38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am Yahweh (the Lord).

39 "As for you, O house of Israel," thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Go, serve every one of you his idols — and hereafter — if you will not obey Me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols.

40 For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.

41 I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles.

42 Then you shall know that I am Yahweh (the Lord), when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised My hand in an oath to give to your fathers.

43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed.

44 Then you shall know that I am Yahweh (the Lord), when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God)."

### Fire in the Forest (In the Jewish Tanakh this is the first five verses of chapter 21)

45 Furthermore the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

46 "Son of man, set your face toward the south; preach against the south and prophesy against the forest land, the South,

47 and say to the forest of the South, 'Hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord)! Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree and every dry tree in you; the blazing flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be scorched by it.

48 All flesh shall see that I, Yahweh (the Lord), have kindled it; it shall not be quenched.'"

49 Then I said, "Ah, Adoney Yahweh (Lord God)! They say of me, 'Does he not speak parables?'"  
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Rebellious sinners inquiry not acceptable to Yahweh [Ezekiel 20:1-3]

✧ It came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of Yahweh (the Lord), and sat before me.

Then the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying,

"Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Have you come to inquire of Me? As I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "I will not be inquired of by you.'" [Ezekiel 20:1-3, 14:1-3]

✧ Yahweh refuses to receive inquiry from those who are rebellious and idolatrous.

### Abominable Rebellions of Israel In Egypt, The Wilderness, The Promised Land [Ezekiel 20:4-29]

- ☆ Yahweh wants the people to know the abominations that turn away His face.
  - ✧ Yahweh made Himself known to the descendants of Jacob **in the land of Egypt** and made an oath to bring them out of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey.
  - ✧ Yahweh commanded them to throw away the abominable idols of Egypt by which they are defiled.
  - ✧ **In Egypt** they rebelled and refused to obey the Word of Yahweh.
  - ✧ Yahweh said He would destroy them **in the land of Egypt**, but *He refrained from destroying them for the sake of His name and reputation in the sight of the Gentiles.*
  - ✧ Therefore He brought them **out of Egypt** and gave them His statutes and judgments by which **through obedience they would live.** [Leviticus 18:5, Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21, Matthew 19:17]
  - ✧ **In the Wilderness** they rebelled against the statutes and judgments of Yahweh and defiled His Sabbaths.
  - ✧ Yahweh threatened to destroy them in the wilderness, but *refrained from doing so for the sake of His name and reputations in the sight of the Gentiles.*
  - ✧ **Yahweh instructed their children in the wilderness** to put away the sins of their fathers and obey the commandments of the Law He had given at Mount Sinai and honor the Sabbath He had given to all people at the time of Creation. [Genesis 2:2-3]
  - ✧ The command to keep the Sabbath day holy is established as a sign between Children of Israel and Yahweh by which the Children of Israel may know that Yahweh Eloheykem is their God. [Ezekiel 20:20, Exodus 16:23, 20:8]
  - ✧ **In the Promised Land** the generation who took possession of the Promised Land rebelled against Yahweh and refused to obey the statutes and judgments He had given to them **which if a man does them he shall live by them.**
  - ✧ Yahweh threatened to pour out His fury and His anger on them in the wilderness, but he refrained from doing so for the sake of His Name and Reputation in the sight of the Gentiles.
  - ✧ Yahweh also took an oath in the wilderness, through Moses, that He would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries because they had not obeyed His commandments, they rejected His judgments, despised His statutes and profaned His Sabbaths, while clinging to the idols of their fathers. [Leviticus 26:33, Deuteronomy 4:27, 28:64]
  - ✧ **Yahweh gave them up** to things by which they could not live.
  - ✧ Yahweh pronounced them unclean because of their idolatry which included causing their firstborn to pass through the fire to their idols.
  - ✧ The goal is to cause them to know that He is Yahweh.
  - ✧ The fathers had also blasphemed Yahweh by being unfaithful to Him when He brought them into the Promised Land where they worshipped their idols on all high hills, among all the thick trees they offered their sacrifices to all their idols, sent up their sweet aroma, and poured out their drink offerings to provoke Yahweh to anger.
  - ✧ Yahweh asked, "What is this high place to which you go?" Its name is called "Bamah" to this day.
  - ✧ The abominations of Israel continued from their time in Egypt, the Wilderness, through the times of the Judges, the Kings and to the day they were carried away by the Assyrians and now the Babylonians in the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel until Jerusalem fell and beyond even in captivity.

Present continuation of ancient abominations is not acceptable. [Ezekiel 20:30-32]

- ✧ Speaking of Ezekiel's time when Jerusalem is falling to the Babylonians, Yahweh asked, "Are you defiling yourselves in the same manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations"?
- ✧ When you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols even to this day.
- ✧ **Shall I then be inquired of by you? I will not be inquired of by you, says Adoney Yahweh.**
- ✧ Your desire to be like the Gentiles, worshipping wood and stone, will not be accepted.

#### God Will purge away evil and Restore Israel For The Rod of Iron Kingdom [Ezekiel 20:33-38]

- ✧ Yahweh looks forward to the Rod of Iron Kingdom age.
- ✧ All of Israel will be gathered from all the nations to which they were scattered.
- ✧ First He will purge all sinners from among the people, bring the remnant into the Kingdom and rule with rigidly strict control of a truly righteous government world wide.
- ✧ He will demonstrate the truth of His promise of universal peace and abundance which results from fully obeying His commandments.

#### Until then, Yahweh gives them up to their own desires

- ✧ "As for you, O house of Israel," thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Go, serve every one of you his idols — and hereafter — if you will not obey Me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols. [Ezekiel 20:39]
- ✧ Yahweh gives them up desiring to free His name being profaned by their abominations before the Gentiles.

#### Back to the description of the Kingdom age [Ezekiel 20:40-44]

- ✧ On the Holy mountain of Israel they will all serve Yahweh and He will accept them.
- ✧ Yahweh will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.
- ✧ His people will loathe themselves remembering all the abominations by which they were defiled.
- ✧ Yahweh will bring all Israel back to the land of Israel and His name and reputation will be hallowed before the Gentiles.
- ✧ All will know that Yahweh is a God of His Word who has done everything He said He would do both in punishing His sinful people, and restoring them to a righteous kingdom.
- ✧ **The people of Israel will be restored for the sake of Yahweh's name and reputation,** not according to their ways.

#### Fire in the Forest (In the Jewish Tanakh this is the first five verses of chapter 21) [Ezekiel 20:45-49]

- ✧ Fire that will not be quenched is described for the forest of the South which will scorch all faces from the South to the North.
- ✧ This is a judgment that will cause all the people of the earth to realize that it was done by the hand of Yahweh.
- ✧ Ezekiel said. "Ah, Adoney Yahweh (Lord God)! They say of me, 'Does he not speak parables?'"