

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 18-21: God is Just (Part 3)
Lesson 21 “National Responsibility”
Ezekiel 20:1-44 (ANSWERS)
January 31, 2021

Recap from Lesson 20:

1. You can **Blame** Yourselfs (**Vss. 19-24**)
 - a. He described a **Wicked** man who **Repented**, turned from his sins, and lived (**Vss. 19-23**), and then described a **Righteous** man who **Returned** to his sins and died. (**Vs. 24**)
 - i. The lesson from these two examples is obvious and answered their questions: People **Determine** their own **Character** and **Destiny** by the decisions they make.
2. You **Cannot** Blame the **Lord** (**Vss. 25-32**)
 - a. They wanted God to act **Contrary** to His own **Word** and His own holy **Nature**.

Chapter 19: Leadership Responsibility

1. **Israel** is Like a **Lioness** (**Vss. 1-9**)
 - a. The Lioness represents the Nation of Israel, or at least the royal tribe of **Judah**.
2. **Israel** is Like a **Vine** (**Vss. 10-14**)
 - a. Israel did not keep the terms of the covenant, but the Lord did, and that is why He chastened them, and scattered them.
 - b. God’s chosen people have no **Temple**, Priesthood, Sacrifice, or **King**. (**Hos. 3:4-5**)
 - c. Jesus Christ, Israel’s **Messiah**, came as the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**) and the **True Vine** (**Jn. 15:1**), and the rightful heir to the throne of David, and His **Own** people **Rejected** Him.

Lesson 21

Background:

- Ezekiel delivered this message on **August 14, 591 BC**, to some Jewish elders who came to his house to “Inquire of the Lord.” But the prophet knew that their hearts were not right with God and that they had no right to ask the Lord for instruction. (**Ezek. 20:30-32**)
 - Willingness to **Submit** and **Obey** is the mark of the person who can seek God’s **Guidance** and expect to **Receive** it.
- **Ezek. 20:4**- This statement from the Lord suggests that God was judging the Jews because of what their fathers had done.
 - But that was not what the Lord was saying to Ezekiel. By reviewing the history of the nation, God was **Judging** that current generation because they were guilty of the **Same** sins of **Unbelief** and **Rebellion**. (**Jer. 16:12**)

1. Israel in Egypt (**Ezek. 20:5-8**)

- a. God "Chose" the nation of Israel when He called Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to the land of Canaan (**Gen. 12**), but the nation did Not even exist at that time.
 - i. God built the nation in the land of Egypt. When Jacob's family entered Egypt, they numbered **66** people; Joseph's family was already in Egypt and they had brought the total of **70** people. (**Gen. 46**)
 - ii. But when the Jews left Egypt at the Exodus, the fighting men alone were over **600,000** (**Num. 1:46**), so there may well have been over 2 million people in the nation.
 - iii. In Egypt, God revealed Himself to the Jews through the ministry of Moses and Aaron as well as through the terrible Judgments He inflicted on the land of Egypt.

2. Israel's Exodus from Egypt (**Vss. 9-10**)

- a. The Lord had every reason to pour out His wrath on Israel, but for His Name's sake, He Rescued His people.
 - i. God often worked on Israel's behalf, not because they deserved it but for the glory of His own nature (**Ezek. 20:14, 22, 44**), just as He has Saved His church today. (**Eph. 1:6, 12**)

3. Israel at Sinai (**Vss. 11-12**)

- a. Israel tarried about two years at Sinai, where God revealed His glory and gave them laws.
 - i. While they tarried there, Moses directed the construction of the Tabernacle, and its furniture. But after seeing God's glory and hearing His voice, Israel rebelled against Him by making and worshipping a golden calf. (**Ex. 32**)
 - ii. God gave them the Sabbath day (The seventh day of the week) as a sign to Remind them that they Belonged to Him.
- b. The law that God gave Israel at Sinai consisted of Statutes and Ordinances governing every area of life: Their Civic Responsibilities, the Maintaining of Courts and Judges, the Punishment of offenders, and the Responsibilities of the People and their priest in the Religious life of the nation.
 - i. But because Israel was a Theocracy (A system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god) and God was their King, Every law had its religious implications. To break the law was to sin Against the Lord, and the people did it frequently.
- c. Those who obeyed God's law would "Live." (**Ezek. 20:11, 13, 21**) This was an important word we considered in **Chapter 18 (Vss. 9, 17, 19, 21, 28)**.
 - i. It refers to Physical life, not being subject to capital punishment because of deliberate Disobedience to God's statutes.
 - ii. But for the Jew who loved the Lord, trusted Him, and obeyed Him, it included the Spiritual life that comes to all who believe.
 - iii. (**Rom. 10:15; Gal. 3:12**)
 1. These two verses make it clear that Nobody is saved simply obeying the law, but those who Trust the Lord will prove their faith by their obedience.

2. Religious people like the Pharisees have a “Law Righteousness,” but those who trust Christ have a “Faith Righteousness” that enables them to obey God’s will.
- d. Salvation is always by Faith (**Heb. 11:6**), and this is the faith always issues in good Works and Obedience.

