

THEME: **THE NAME AND WORD OF GOD** 2023

TITLE: **FOR MY NAME'S SAKE**

TEXT: Ezekiel 20:1-44 (Key text verse 44)

### **Introduction**

Questions Children ask about God

- "Why did God make mosquitoes? All they do is bite you!"
- "Did Jesus get potty trained as fast as me?"
- "Is Santa God's really rich brother?"
- Talking about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and how He will leave 99 sheep to find one lost one. One little boy piped up, 'Did Jesus live in a zoo?'"
- "Mom, can I ride a pony in Heaven?"
- "Do you think Jesus liked wearing sandals all the time like I do?"
- "Did Jesus practice walking on water first? How can I do it?"

I often hear people say that they have questions for God when they get to heaven.

I too have several topics I would love to have His Divine understanding on.

### **If you could ask God one question, what would it be?**

- "How can I know for sure how to get to heaven?"
- "Why is there so much suffering in the world?"
- "Why did my family member have to die?"
- "Why did my dad walk out and leave us with nothing?"
- "What really happens when you die?"
- "What was your temptation with homosexuality since the Bible says God has been through what we've been through?"
- "Am I going to heaven?"
- "How can you love if you choose to send the majority of all humans to hell?"
- "Was all my heartbreak as a child for a purpose?"
- "What will make us happy?"
- "Why did you create Satan?"
- "Why am I here?"
- "Do you have to actively follow the Bible to get to heaven or can you just be a good person?"
- "Why is sleeping with my girlfriend considered wrong?"
- "Why is there child abuse?"
- "Do you truly love everyone?"

**Why do bad things happen to good people?**

**How can a loving God judge harshly?**

**WHY ARE BAD THINGS HAPPENING TO ME?**

**Ezek. 20:44**

*And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God."*

## **WILL YOU COME AND INQUIRE OF ME?**

### **Psalm 34:4**

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.*

### **James 1:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...*

### **Certain elders came to inquire of the Lord**

- Summer of 593BC, four years after Nebuchadnezzar deported the first group of exiles to Babylon
- Ezekiel prophesied during a time of great confusion following Israel's exile to Babylon in 597BC. A former Judean king was among the exiles (the 18-year-old Jehoiachin), and the Babylonians had appointed a puppet king to the throne in Jerusalem (Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah).
- They wanted to know why all of this was happening.
- Were they not God's chosen?
- How could this have happened to them?
- Where was God and why was he not delivering them?

### **Ezek. 20:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, Is it to inquire of me that you come? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you. <sup>4</sup> Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Let them know the abominations of their fathers.*

- "As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I will not be inquired of by you."
- He says the same to Job in a discourse:

### **Job 38:2-4**

*<sup>2</sup> "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup> Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding."*

## **GOD DOES GIVE US AN ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE.**

### **Ezek. 20:39-45**

*<sup>39</sup> "As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord God: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols.*

*<sup>40</sup> "For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord God, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings. <sup>41</sup> As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations. <sup>42</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers. <sup>43</sup> And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.*

*<sup>44</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God."*

<sup>39</sup> *“As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord God: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols.”*

## **MY READING**

<sup>40</sup> *“For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord God, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land...”*

- My people will serve Me in the land.

*... There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings.*

- Contributions
- Choicest gifts
- Sacred offerings

<sup>41</sup> *As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.”*

- We please the Lord.
  - Bad smells
  - Trash, diapers, body odor
- We are accepted.
- Bring you together from being scattered.
- He will manifest HIS HOLINESS.

<sup>42</sup> *And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers.*

- We will know that he is Lord in our lives and in our land.

<sup>43</sup> *And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed.*

- We will remember the ways we are to live.
- We are to remember the deeds that we do.
  - They are not to be evil or corrupt.

<sup>44</sup> *And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God.”*

- God will deal with each of us for HIS NAME'S SAKE.
- All the deeds, sacrifices, contributions, sacrifices are not about us... They are and always have been about HIM.

## **GOD CHOOSES AND SWEARS BY HIS NAME – HE DID WHAT HE SWORE TO DO**

### **Ezek. 20:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *On the day when I chose Israel, **I swore** to the offspring of the house of Jacob, making myself known to them in the land of Egypt; I swore to them, saying, I am the LORD your God. <sup>6</sup> On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands.*

**He chooses and swears to make Himself a people.**

- The people of Israel
- The Church: the Bride of Christ
- His family, His children, His heirs
- We are His and we are to look like Him, act like Him, shine like Him, represent Him.

**He chooses and swears to deliver out of bondage.**

- Out of Egypt and conquer the enemies of God.
- Freedom from sin and the bondage to the sin nature.

**He chooses and swears to bring us into a kingdom.**

- A land of milk and honey
- Kingdom living in our lives and heaven's promise

Look again

**Ezek. 20:44**

*“And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God.”*

**GOD DOES NOT DESTROY FOR EVIL WAYS OR CORRUPT DEEDS**

**For His Name's Sake, He Did Not Destroy Them When They Rebelled out of Egypt**

**Ezek. 20:9**

*But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.*

**For His Name's Sake, He Did Not Destroy Them When They Rebelled at the Jordan**

**Ezek. 20:13-14, 17**

<sup>13</sup> ... *“Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them. <sup>14</sup> But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. ... <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, my eye spared them ...*

**For His Name's Sake, He Did Not Destroy Them When They Rebelled in Their Wilderness**

**Ezek. 20:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> *“Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness. <sup>22</sup> But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.*

**GOD GAVE US ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO HONOR HIS NAME BY FOLLOWING HIS WORD**

**Ezek. 20:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> *I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. <sup>12</sup> Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.*

**Throughout this passage God reminds us of three things**

## THREE THINGS THAT GOD IS CALLING FOR:

### 1. Statutes and Rules

- As a child there are **values** in the home
- In school there are **behaviors** that are to be lived by
- At a job, there are **procedures and protocols** that are demanded
- In a marriage there are **shared values** that must be abided by

Any relationship we walk in calls for statutes and rules that must be abided by if the relationship has value

#### **Deuteronomy 5:33**

*You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.*

#### **John 14:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> *Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.*

#### **James 1:22**

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

### **Live By His Word to Shine His Truth to the World**

### 2. Sabbaths of Rest

Seven different Sabbaths and feasts in addition to the weekly observance in the OT

**Passover festival, Unleavened Bread, Feast of Harvest (Feast of Weeks), Day of atonement, harvest, tabernacles**

New Testament believers observe these Sabbaths through the work of Jesus Christ

- Regularly and daily
  - Passover (Sacrifice) – the crucifixion
  - Unleavened bread (Sacrifice) – The crucifixion
  - Feast of Trumpets - Repentance
  - Yom Kippur – Atonement
  - First fruits – Resurrection
  - Feast of weeks – The Pentecost – The presence of the Holy Spirit
  - Feast of tabernacles – The Holy Spirit ministry of permanent indwelling

The struggle of this life and the pace of all that causes us anxiety and worry

- God has called us into rest.

#### **Hebrews 3:7-11, 18-19**

<sup>7</sup> *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,<sup>9</sup> where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'<sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath 'They shall not enter my rest.'" ...*

...<sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

**Heb. 4:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

**Matt 11:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Rest in His Love to Show Hope to the World**

**3. Singularity of Relationship**

- Worship Him and Him alone.
- They went after idols.
- Their eyes were set on their father's idols.

**Ezek. 20:7**

And I said to them, 'Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.'

- The relationship is not of this world and should not be defiled

**Ezek. 20:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and go whoring after their detestable things? <sup>31</sup> When you present your gifts and offer up your children in fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, declares the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you. <sup>32</sup> "What is in your mind shall never happen—the thought, 'Let us be like the nations, like the tribes of the countries, and worship wood and stone.'

- Whoring – This is infidelity.
- They are your idols to this day.
- We ask God why?
- He says: What is in your mind shall never happen—the thought,
  - Let us be like the nations.
  - Let us be like the tribes.
  - Let us be like the countries.
  - Let us be like the world.

**NO!**

**Rom. 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Worship Him Alone to Be Different from the World.**

**IT IS ALL ABOUT HIM – "I DEAL WITH YOU FOR MY NAME'S SAKE!"**