

Ezekiel 20

Ezekiel III: Learning from the Past

From exodus to exile ...

I. Lessons from Our History

- A. Israel
- B. The Church
- C. Our Church
- D. You

II. The Point God is Making

- A. I Am the Lord Your God
- B. I Am Faithful
- C. You are Prone to Rebellion
- D. I Will Refine You
- E. For My Name's Sake

III. Seeking His Kingdom First

- A. The Danger of Losing Perspective
- B. Rekindling Real Passion for God

... on the road to glory.

Children, Listen ...

1. How has God shown Himself to be faithful to His people through the years?
2. What are some ways God's people in the Old Testament were unfaithful to Him?
3. How do God's people show love and faithfulness to Him?
4. Can you finish this quote from Jesus? Seek first the _____
_____ of God (Matthew 6:33).

From Horrors and Hang-ups

The church of God, including both Old and New Covenant folks, has had a terrible tendency to get distracted from her main purpose. Sometimes, as in the case of Israel in the time of the Exodus and in the time of Ezekiel, this can erupt into outright rebellion against God. The bad news is that the church can be shockingly corrupt and has proven its potential many times and in disturbingly graphic ways throughout history. The good news is that God is faithful and He loves His people too much to allow for a complete collapse of His entire church. He has and will discipline her to refine her and keep her, and though the remnant that remains may seem quite small at times, He will not only preserve a people unto Himself, he will actually expand His Kingdom in the process. But keep in mind that it is not always the salacious things that can captivate the attention of the church and her people; sometimes the allure is Quite subtle. Things like undue anxiety over worldly matters, overemphasis on creature comforts and even becoming religiously hung-up on things that simply don't really matter can lull us into a less than passionate love for God and the things of His Kingdom. We can learn from the history of the church how to avoid the dangerous pitfalls of distraction that our forefathers fell into so often – and we can move forward with an intensive passion for what matters most as long as we constantly seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness above all things.