

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Book of Ezekiel*  
*Message 37*  
*May 22, 2016*



The Idolatry of Solomon by Frans Franken Cir 1581-1642

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# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel  
Message Thirty-Seven

## Historical Rebellion of The Nation Israel Pt. II

May 22, 2016

Daniel E. Woodhead

GOD'S LOVE EVEN IN REBELLION

Ezekiel 20:18-32

*<sup>18</sup>And I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their ordinances, nor defile yourselves with their idols. <sup>19</sup>I am Jehovah your God: walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; <sup>20</sup>and hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am Jehovah your God. <sup>21</sup>But the children rebelled against me; they walked not in my statutes, neither kept mine ordinances to do them, which if a man do, he shall live in them; they profaned my sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness. <sup>22</sup>Nevertheless I withdrew my hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I brought them forth. <sup>23</sup>Moreover I sware unto them in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the nations, and disperse them through the countries; <sup>24</sup>because they had not executed mine ordinances, but had rejected my statutes, and had profaned my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. <sup>25</sup>Moreover also I gave them statutes that were not good, and ordinances wherein they should not live; <sup>26</sup>and I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am Jehovah.*

*<sup>27</sup>Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In this moreover have your fathers blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me. <sup>28</sup>For when I had brought them into the land, which I sware to give unto them, then they saw every high hill, and every thick tree, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there also they made their sweet savor, and they poured out there their drink-offerings. <sup>29</sup>Then I said unto them, What meaneth the high place whereunto ye go? So the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day. <sup>30</sup>Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Do ye pollute yourselves after the manner of your fathers? and play ye the harlot after their abominations? <sup>31</sup>and when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, do ye pollute yourselves with all your idols unto this day? and shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will not be inquired of by you; <sup>32</sup>and that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, in that ye say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone (ASV, 1901).*

GOD'S LOVE EVEN IN REBELLION

## Ezekiel 20:18-32

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God is now speaking to the second generation of wilderness wanderers. The first generation has died out and the Lord now speaks to their sons and daughters. God is commanding them to not do what their parents did to defile themselves with the idols their fathers worshipped. He urged them to follow the Law He provided to them at Sinai. He wanted them to sanctify (make holy) the sabbaths as signs of the covenant relationship between the Lord and themselves. By following these instructions the second generation would come to know by personal experience that Jehovah was their God. As they would worship Him and keep His Laws He would reveal more of Himself to them through blessings. This group was to be just as rebellious as the first. They worshipped idols while they offered sacrifices and offerings to the Lord syncretistic (Amos 5:25-27).

## THE NEW GENERATION REBELLED

### Ezekiel 20:21

*<sup>21</sup>But the children rebelled against me; they walked not in my statutes, neither kept mine ordinances to do them, which if a man do, he shall live in them; they profaned my sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness (ASV, 1901).*

This generation was no better and possibly worse than the first one. They profaned the sabbaths and refused to follow the Mosaic Law. This was given to them as a means to flourish in the world in covenant relationship to God. The Lord was so angry with them that He threatened to destroy them while they were still in the wilderness. It is important to see what they were doing to see why He was so angry. Sin so easily tempts and entangles us (Hebrews 12:1).

### Numbers 25:1-3

*<sup>1</sup>And Israel abode in Shittim; and the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab: <sup>2</sup>for they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods; and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup>And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel (ASV, 1901).*

The Baal Peor was a Moabite deity that the Israelites worshiped while they had illicit sexual relations with Moabite women. The guilty Israelites were severely punished for this transgression, and the incident became a pattern of sin and divine judgment for later generations of Israelites. Psalm 106:28 says that “*They joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.*” So in addition to worshipping this occultic god,

they had illicit sexual acts with the Moabite women while sacrificing to the dead and eating the food sacrificed in adoration to the entire abominable process. No wonder why God says He was angry with them because Hosea 9:10 says that they loved these practices, not just engaged in them. This is a direct violation of the very first commandment to not have any other gods before them replacing Jehovah.

#### GOD'S PROTECTS HIS NAME

Ezekiel 20:22-24

*<sup>22</sup>Nevertheless I withdrew my hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I brought them forth. <sup>23</sup>Moreover I swore unto them in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the nations, and disperse them through the countries; <sup>24</sup>because they had not executed mine ordinances, but had rejected my statutes, and had profaned my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols (ASV,1901).*

God will not desecrate His holy name for anything. This includes punishing sin at an inappropriate time. God is repeating what He said earlier to affirm it. That is, He does not want any nation to think that He is punishing unjustly and thereby letting them think that he is not a loving caring God desiring that all will seek Him and find salvation. He is long suffering in this regard.

II Peter 3:9

*<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (KJV).*

He told this second generation that did not know Egypt that if they continued in rebellion He would *scatter them among the nations, and disperse them through the countries*. This is an example of how patient He is. This is approximately 1418 B.C. and it would be another 832 years until he finally had enough of their gross sins and He caused the Babylonians to conquer them. They lusted (*their eyes were after*) the idols of their fathers. It was all fueled by the sexual immorality that they learned from the previous generation.

#### GOD GIVES THEM OVER

Ezekiel 20:25

*<sup>25</sup>Moreover also I gave them statutes that were not good, and ordinances wherein they should not live; <sup>26</sup>and I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am Jehovah (ASV,1901).*

Since they would not listen to the Lord and follow His commandments he would turn them over to a series of laws that they desired. He gave them over to their own temptation so they could soak in the fruits of their sins. By having God withdraw from them they then

made their own laws which required them to follow the abominations they were practicing with the Canaanites including the murder of their first born (*caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb*) . Of course all these practices are satanic and come from him and his demons. So just as the apostle Paul turned someone in Corinth over to Satan (I Corinthians 5:5) God is allowing the person to experience the consequences of their sin without the direct intervention or protection of God. God's Laws will protect us if we follow them. By knowing the Bible and following its doctrines we are provided His protection. By intentionally departing from His laws we are purposely distancing ourselves from God because He is holy and pure. When we refuse God's protection we lose Him. Being the most holy and pure He cannot be in the presence of sin and He withdraws. When He withdraws it does not leave a vacuum. It is immediately filled with Satan and his evil practices. In the first chapter of Romans God says the same thing.

Romans 1:28-32

<sup>28</sup> *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not [fitting]*  
<sup>29</sup> *being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: <sup>32</sup> who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them (KJV).*

God's purpose in doing this is so that these people might come to know who He is.

Psalm 81:9-12

<sup>9</sup> *There shall no strange god be in thee; Neither shalt thou worship any strange god.*  
<sup>10</sup> *I am the LORD thy God, Which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. <sup>11</sup> But my people would not hearken to my voice; And Israel would none of me. <sup>12</sup> So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: And they walked in their own counsels. <sup>13</sup> Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, And Israel had walked in my ways (KJV).*

THE FIRST GENERATION'S TEMPTATION

Ezekiel 20:27-28

<sup>27</sup> *Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In this moreover have your fathers blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me. <sup>28</sup> For when I had brought them into the land, which I sware to give unto them, then they saw every high hill, and every thick tree, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there also they made their sweet savor, and they poured out there their drink-offerings (ASV, 1901).*

The first generation of Israelites who left Egypt in the Exodus continued with the idolatrous practices they learned in Egypt. This was considered blasphemy to God. However God recalls that as soon as the present generation got into Israel they did the same things. They forgot all that happened to the previous generation and why. They started sacrificing to the occultic gods and provoked God in doing so. They just had no regard for God and only wanted to bask in the lust of their hearts. The forms of worship they conducted include that of the high places, and the thick trees (Isaiah 57:5; Jeremiah 2:20; 3:6) which witnessed the cults of the Asherah or of Ashtoreth. Because of the condition of their hearts a new environment (Israel) would only be a new opportunity for evil. Their personal attraction (*sweet savor*) was for any other gods than Himself. Their drink-offerings of joy became but drunken revels in honor of their evil gods.

#### GOD'S PROMISES – ISRAEL'S FAILURE

Ezekiel 20:29-32

*<sup>29</sup>Then I said unto them, What meaneth the high place whereunto ye go? So the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day. <sup>30</sup>Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Do ye pollute yourselves after the manner of your fathers? and play ye the harlot after their abominations? <sup>31</sup>and when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, do ye pollute yourselves with all your idols unto this day? and shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I will not be inquired of by you; <sup>32</sup>and that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, in that ye say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone (ASV, 1901).*

God promised to bring them into the Land and He followed through as He always does. But what did they do? They did the opposite of His commandments in at least two ways.

1. They made high places everywhere and even syncretistically sacrificed to God while they worshipped sex and demons.
2. They sacrificed to pagan deities exclusively on the high places that God did not ordain them to do.

They followed the Gentile pagan practices instead of God's Law. A high altar is called a Bamah because of its height or because it was on a mountain. God says, "because of all the evil you do why should I be inquired of by you." In other words you expect me to participate with these pagan non-gods? He further explains that instead of dedicating the gifts they received from God to Him, they killed their first born in the ovens of the pagan deity much like the women aborting their children today. God will not be inquired of in such situations. The Jews thought they could escape the jurisdiction of God's Laws and remove themselves from Him just by ignoring Him and following after the pagan practices as well as blaspheming Him. God grants power to the heathen nations to correct Israel when they leave Him. This is for their own correction. The nation Israel regardless of its sins will never escape God's favor, even during correction. Even if He must use force to cause them to turn again to Him He will still love them.

NEXT MESSAGE: ISRAEL'S RETURN TO THE LAND PROPHECIED

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