

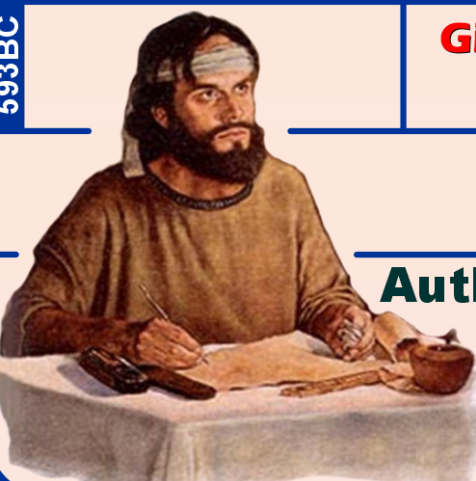
# **HISTORY OF JUDAH'S CORRUPTION**

# **20b**

# **EZEKIEL**



# BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

| INWARD → Personal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | OUTWARD ↺ Peoples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | ONWARD  → Prophetic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 — 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | 4 — 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 25 — 32                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | 33 — 48                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Ezekiel's Call to Ministry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC)</li><li>597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25</li><li>593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30</li></ul> |  | <b>Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A Disobedient Nation (4-7)</li><li>A Departed Glory (8-11)</li><li>A Disciplined Nation (12-24)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Futility of False Optimism (12-19)</li><li>The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)</li></ul></li></ul> |  | <b>Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ammon (25:1-7)</li><li>Moab (25:8-11)</li><li>Edom (25:12-14)</li><li>Philistia (25:15-17)</li><li>Tyre (26:1—28:19)</li><li>Babylonia (26)</li><li>Sidon (28:20-24)</li><li>Egypt (29-32)</li></ul> |  | <b>Restoration of Israel in the Future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Return of Israel to the land (33-39)</li><li>Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48)</li><li>Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God</li></ul> |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 593BC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | 587BC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | 586BC |  | Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem |  | 571BC                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                    |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | <b>The City Destroyed</b><br>7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |       |  |                                    |  | <b>The City Restored</b><br>15 Years Prophesying HOPE |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Author:</b> Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) <b>Place:</b> Babylonia <b>Time:</b> About 22 years (593-571BC)                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Events:</b> 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old                                                                                                                                                 |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |       |  |                                    |  |                                                       |  |  |  |  |  |

# INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 20

- **These prophecies against Judah and Jerusalem focus on Judah's history.**
- **Ezekiel gives a series of four messages on the sword that would smite Jerusalem**





The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there are dense bushes with bright orange and yellow autumn leaves. A dark wooden fence runs along the bottom left. In the middle ground, a calm blue lake stretches across the scene, with rolling green hills and mountains in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is bright and natural.

# **ISRAEL'S REBELLION IN THE WILDERNESS AND GOD'S GRACE**

**Ezekiel 20:10-26**



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

**EZEKIEL 20:25**





**"Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good,  
and judgments by which they could not live; (Ek.20:25)**

- **God's second judgment was abandoning the people to their sin ("gave them up").**
- **Some have felt that God was referring here to the Mosaic Law.**
- **It is better to see the "statutes" and "judgments" as commandments of the pagan religions to which Israel had turned.**
- **This judgment came AFTER the second generation rebelled. The Mosaic Law was given to the first generation years earlier.**





**"Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good,  
and judgments by which they could not live; (Ek.20:25)**

- **God's "giving over" of the people to sin was His judicial act.**
- **Because they refused to follow His righteous ways, God would abandon them to the consequences of their actions.**
- **Paul expressed a similar judgment by God on the heathen (Ro.1:24, 26, 28).**





**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 the LORD.**

**EZEKIEL 20:26**



**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 the LORD. (Ek.20:26)**

- **These laws “required” the Israelites to offer the sacrifice of every firstborn, a practice God strongly condemned (Lv.20:1-5).**
- **When the people offered their children as burnt offerings to the idols, the loss of their children was God's punishment for this sin (Lv.18:21; Du.18:10; 2Ki.21:6; 2Ch.28:3; Ro.1:24, 26, 28).**
- **It is evident that such people really wanted the gods to love them and were willing to 'give their all' to gain such love.**





**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 the LORD. (Ek.20:26)**

- Ezekiel seems to have been countering the people's claim that because God had commanded them to dedicate their first-born to Him (Ex.13:12; 22:29; Nu.18:15-19), He was authorizing child sacrifice.**
- A sacrifice as understood by Israel's pagan neighbors was a way of giving desirable things to the gods.**
- How about really impressing a god with your dedication and sincerity by sending that god something more precious to you than anything else-your own firstborn child?**



**"Therefore, son of man, speak to the  
house of Israel, and say to them,  
'Thus says the Lord GOD: "In this too  
your fathers have blasphemed Me, by  
being unfaithful to Me."**

**EZEKIEL 20:27**





**"Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "In this too your fathers have blasphemed Me, by being unfaithful to Me. (Ek.20:27)**

- **The Lord instructed Ezekiel to continue speaking for Him.**
- **The Israelites' forefathers had blasphemed (slandered) the Lord with further covenant unfaithfulness (Nu.15:30-31).**
- **After He had brought them into the Promised Land, they used that good land to practice idolatry.**



**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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:28**





**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. (Ek.20:28)**

- **Israel's new location in the land of promise did not change her sinful actions.**
- **In the land the people offered their sacrifices to idols on hills and under leafy trees, using the Promised Land as the setting for their idolatry.**



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

**EZEKIEL 20:29**





**Then I said to them, 'What is this high place to which you go?' So its name is called Bamah to this day." ' (Ek.20:29)**

- **Bamah means “high place”, but also “go where” or “go what.” Thus, Bamah became a contemptuous pun.**
- **The Lord had confronted His people with their use of the high places on hilltops for idolatry.**
- **When the people went to the high places to worship idols, where were they going?**
- **They were going nowhere of any significance to do nothing of any importance since these idols were nonentities and could not help them.**



**Therefore say to the house of Israel,  
'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you  
defiling yourselves in the manner of  
your fathers, and committing harlotry  
according to their abominations?"**

**EZEKIEL 20:30**





**Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? (Ek.20:30)**

- **In Ezekiel's day Israel was still rebellious, just like her ancestors, and was involved in idolatry and child sacrifice.**
- **Ezekiel was to ask his hearers if they planned to defile themselves and to prostitute themselves to things the Lord detested, as their ancestors had done.**



**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 the Lord GOD, "I will not be inquired of by you.**

**EZEKIEL 20:31**





**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 the Lord GOD, "I will not be inquired of by you. (Ek.20:31)**

- God refused to let them inquire of Him (Ek.20:3). He would not be a divine ouija board they could manipulate for an answer whenever they pleased.**
- They were defiling themselves by practicing child sacrifice. For this reason the Lord would not give them the answers to the questions that they brought to him (Ek.20:1, 3).**





# ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION

Ezekiel 20:32-44



**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.'**

**EZEKIEL 20:32**



**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.' (Ek.20:32)**

- **After recounting Israel's past history of rebellion, God told of her future restoration.**
- **The people wanted ("What you have in your mind") to be like their idolatrous neighbors, but God would not let His people become totally divorced from Him.**
- **The Lord would not allow them to become like the idolaters all around them who served wood and stone.**





**"As I live," says the Lord GOD,  
"surely with a mighty hand, with  
an outstretched arm, and with  
fury poured out, I will rule over  
you.**

**EZEKIEL 20:33**



**"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. (Ek.20:33)**

- **He would remain their God, ruling over them with a mighty hand.**
- **The words “mighty hand” and “outstretched arm” would call to mind God’s strength in delivering His people from Egypt (Du.4:34; 5:15; 7:19; 11:2; Ps.136:12).**
- **However, His hand and arm would now bring wrath, not deliverance.**





**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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:34**



**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. (Ek.20:34)**

- **Much as the Exodus brought Israel out of bondage into the wilderness, so God's new "Exodus" would bring Israel from the countries where she had been scattered.**
- **She would be brought into the wilderness, but this would be a desert of judgment.**





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

**EZEKIEL 20:35**



**And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. (Ek.20:35)**

- **A second exodus is in view. He would bring them into another type of wilderness, a wilderness full of people, and there He would personally judge them.**
- **This probably refers to the present worldwide dispersion of the Jews that began in A.D. 70 when the Jews had to leave the Promised Land again.**





**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 the Lord  
GOD.**

**EZEKIEL 20:36**



**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 the Lord GOD. (Ek.20:36)**

- **As the Lord had judged the fathers in the wilderness long ago, so He would judge the children of His people.**





**I will make you pass under the  
rod, and I will bring you into  
the bond of the covenant;**

**EZEKIEL 20:37**



# **I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; (Ek.20:37)**

- **This pictures a shepherd holding out his rod and forcing the sheep to pass under it single file for counting (Je.33:13).**
- **It was customary for shepherds to count their sheep as they passed under their staff that they held over the doorway of the sheepfold.**
- **The shepherd would let those sheep that were actually his enter the fold, a place of protection.**
- **In this instance the fold was “the bond of the covenant.”**





# **I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; (Ek.20:37)**

- **Reference to those who 'pass under my rod' was first an allusion to the tithe (Lv.27:32).**
- **Every tenth animal that passed under a 'rod' held over the sheep was separated and declared to be holy.**
- **The 'rod' also was an instrument of discipline, correction, and punishment.**



# **I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; (Ek.20:37)**

- **The “covenant” could refer to the Mosaic Covenant, which Israel had broken (Ek.16:59), but this does not seem likely since Israel invalidated the Mosaic Covenant by her unbelief.**
- **Therefore God will make a New Covenant with her when He restores her to Himself (Je.31:31-33).**
- **Ezekiel seemed to make the same distinction (Ek.16:60) between the Old Covenant of Israel’s “youth” and the “everlasting covenant” which will be enacted at the time of her restoration.**
- **God will again bring Israel into a covenant relationship with Him — but this covenant will be permanent.**





**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 the LORD.**

**EZEKIEL 20:38**



**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 the LORD. (Ek.20:38)**

- **As Israel gathered in the wilderness, God would begin the process of eliminating those who had rebelled.**
- **As the sheep will pass under the rod of the Great Shepherd, those who do not belong to Him — unbelieving Israelites who rebel against God — will be removed.**
- **God will not allow those sheep to enter His land.**





**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 the LORD. (Ek.20:38)**

- **God's process of purification will mean that only true sheep will enjoy the covenant of blessing.**
- **This scene described by Ezekiel is yet future, when Christ returns, and Israel believes nationally.**
- **This was another way of communicating the purpose of the exile, which was to 'purge' and purify those who rebelled against God.**



**"As for you, O house of Israel," thus says 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**





**"As for you, O house of Israel," thus says 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. (Ek.20:39)**

- When Israel enters into the New Covenant she will really know the Lord (Ek.20:39-44).**
- Though Israel was serving idols in Ezekiel's day (to her own defilement, Ek.20:25-26), in the future God will not permit such sin among His people (Ek.39:7; 43:7).**
- For now the Israelites to whom Ezekiel spoke could continue to practice idolatry, not with the Lord's blessing of course, but in the future they would listen to and obey the Lord.**
- Then they would make His name common no longer with their unacceptable worship, gifts, and idolatry.**





**For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says 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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:40**





**For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says 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. (Ek.20:40)**

- **God's ideal for Israel will finally be realized in the millennial kingdom.**
- **She will serve the Lord, He "will accept" her, and the people will offer Him their choicest offerings, gifts, and sacrifices in sincere worship.**
- **As a result, God will show Himself holy.**
- **"Holy" means "set apart," the opposite of "profaned" or "made common."**



**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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:41**





**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. (Ek.20:41)**

- **Israel had profaned her God by debasing her worship with sin and idolatry (Ek.20:39).**
- **In the future, however, she will set God apart so all the nations will sense God's holiness.**
- **The people would be as a soothing aroma to God when He regathered them to the Promised Land from where He had scattered them, and He would accept them.**
- **God would then prove that He is holy among the nations, namely, uniquely different from all the so-called gods.**



**Then you shall know that I am 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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:42**





**Then you shall know that I am 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. (Ek.20:42)**

- **God's restoration of Israel will produce real changes.**
- **There will be a new REALIZATION of her God. Israel will "know that I the LORD."**
- **"Lord" (Yahweh) is God's personal name, revealed to Israel (Ex.3:13-15). It stresses God's self-existence and His covenant-keeping faithfulness.**
- **Israel will come to understand the true meaning of God's name (and character) when He brings her into Canaan.**



**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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:43**





**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. (Ek.20:43)**

- **There will be her REPENTANCE.**
- **She will remember her conduct and will loathe herself for all the evil she has done.**
- **The shame Israel should have felt (but didn't) in Ezekiel's day will finally be manifested when God restores her.**



**Then you shall know that I am 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 the Lord GOD.**

**EZEKIEL 20:44**





**Then you shall know that I am 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 the Lord GOD. (Ek.20:44)**

- **This promise does not depend on her faithfulness, for she had been extremely unfaithful.**
- **The promise, made by God, depends on His faithfulness.**
- **God will demonstrate His covenant loyalty by fulfilling it.**
- **The prospect of future grace, restoration, and blessing has always been the strongest motivation for present holiness.**





# PARABLE OF THE FOREST FIRE

Ezekiel 20:45-49



**Furthermore the word of the  
LORD came to me, saying,**

**EZEKIEL 20:45**



**Furthermore the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.20:45)**

- **This parable introduces the four messages in Ezekiel 21:1-32.**
- **This section contains four messages of judgment on Judah and Jerusalem with special emphasis on the judgment coming on the leaders of the people.**





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

**EZEKIEL 20:46**



**"Son of man, set your face toward the south; preach against the south and prophesy against the forest land, the South, (Ek.20:46)**

- **Ezekiel was to face toward the south (*tēmānâh*) and preach against the south (*dārôm*) and the southland (*negev*).**
- **Negev is the name of the southern portion of Canaan near Israel's border with Edom (Js.15:21).**
- **Today the Negev is a semi-arid region with little rainfall and few sources of water. But since Ezekiel referred to the Negev forest, the land must have been more densely covered in those days.**
- **Today the Negev is a semi-arid region with little rainfall and few sources of water.**





**and say to the forest of the South,  
'Hear the word of the LORD! Thus says  
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.**

**EZEKIEL 20:47**





**and say to the forest of the South, 'Hear the word of the LORD! Thus says 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. (Ek.20:47)**

- In this prophecy against Judah, Ezekiel said God was going to devastate it by fire (“fire” of judgment).**
- Here it becomes clear that God was using the trees in the south to represent Judah's people.**
- The Lord announced that He was going to judge the Judahites as when a fire sweeps through a forest.**





**All flesh shall see that I,  
the LORD, have kindled  
it; it shall not be quenched.**

**EZEKIEL 20:48**



**All flesh shall see that I, the LORD, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched. (Ek.20:48)**

- **The Lord explained the basis for His judgment of Judah (Ek.20:1-44) and then proceeded to describe and to affirm the certainty of that judgment (Ek.20:45—21:32).**
- **All types of people would suffer, the outwardly righteous (green tree) and the outwardly unrighteous (dry tree), and the judgment would affect the whole land.**
- **Here the point is that the coming invasion would affect everyone.**





**Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD!  
They say of me, 'Does he not  
speak parables?' "**

**EZEKIEL 20:49**



**Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! They say of me,  
'Does he not speak parables?' " (Ek.20:49)**

- **The people saw Ezekiel's actions but refused to understand them.**
- **Ezekiel complained to God that the people were saying he was just telling parables, or perplexing riddles.**
- **Though he was predicting Judah's destruction, the people were only confused by his words.**





# **HISTORY OF JUDAH'S CORRUPTION**

# **20b**

# **EZEKIEL**