

Ezekiel.

Chapter 20.

Summary.

Certain “elders of Israel” come to Ezekiel seeking to inquire of the Lord. These elders are quickly told that God will not be inquired of by them. God tells Ezekiel to tell them of the “abominations of their fathers”. Beginning with Israel’s time as slaves in Egypt Ezekiel proceeds to tell the inquirers of the many times they had rebelled against God and of the many times God had mercy on them. Finally in verse 31 God tells them again that He will not be inquired of by them.

Verses 32 through 44 describe the circumstances of the remnant of Jews that God sovereignly saves from the pending destruction resulting from the sins described above.

Verses 45 through 49 is a parable. In the parable there is a forest of the south field, and the trees of the forest are destroyed by fire.

Figurative Significance.

The events of chapter 20 and the sequence of the events are agreeable to the events of the last days of the old covenant age.

The generation of Israel in the days of the prophecy of Ezekiel are figurative of the generation that lived during the ministry of Jesus and the apostolic period that followed during the first century. Jesus said to that generation, “.....upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.”

The remnant that is sovereignly saved in Ezekiel 20:32-44 is figurative of the remnant of Jews who believed and obeyed the gospel in the first century.

The forest of the south field which was destroyed by fire is a figure of the unbelieving Jews that were destroyed by the Romans in the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem.

The sequence of the events in Ezekiel 20 match the sequence of these events which occurred during the last days of the Old Covenant age.