

Sermon Notes – Scattered
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A Story
A Testimony
A Charge

A Story

Ezekiel 20 – The priest came to the Prophet to “Inquire of the Lord”. I asked myself, “What do you suppose they wanted to hear from the Lord?” The answer is obvious; they want to hear the same things we do –

“Everything is going to be alright. Keep on doing what you’re doing; and I, the Lord will rescue you from all your troubles”.

Ez 20:4-12

Who is Lord?

God reminded them that He is the Lord and His Name will be made known in all the surrounding nations – and even throughout the world. You see God had a plan for them and they of course were short sighted and only saw what they wanted to see. Their unified desire was for their own comfort. The “what’s in it for me syndrome”.

Brought them out to Bring them in

But God knew the end from the beginning and he new what the Promised Land meant. So he brought them out. I’ve heard it taught - “He brought them out, so He could bring them in.”

Why did God do this? One reason – **He Loved.**

The Story Continues:

Ez 20:13-26 - The people of Israel rebelled against God. They treated Him as they would any other of the gods that they worshiped in Egypt. So when they got into the desert they formed idols and worshiped. But when God brought them into the desert he taught them how to worship Him. In His discipline the Israelites learned that He is God.

It was in this Desert that God gave them Ten Commandments **Ex 20:1-17** where the first one taught them that He is the Lord and they shall have no other gods before Him. When He was ready he moved them into the Promised Land; and through many trials and miracles that the Lord performed in the midst they got settled.

Comfort = Rebellion

After they were comfortable they rebelled again – This went on many generations Ez 20:27-31

Back Story - During this time Ezekiel and other leaders of Israel was scattered throughout the world.

The History of Israel is actually a mirror of the Christian individual:

Egypt = Sin -- Israel = You / Me -- Promised Land = Life in Christ

A Testimony:

My study of Ezekiel has caused me to take a look at my life and I have seen a pattern that is familiar and not so fun to look at. It has also shown me the awesome love that God has for his kids and how he wants us, more than anything to be successful in what he has brought us into.

You see – He brought us out to bring us in.

I came into this Promised Land of Christianity from a dark life of the world's standards. But it was all I knew; I was lost without a way in. It was through God's Love for me that he showed me the way in through Jesus.

So I came in and settled into the Land that he promised me, the covenant that He made with me. It was a beautiful time in my life. Victories were won in battles that miraculously in God sovereignty settled in my habits and attitudes.

But, before I knew it and quite innocently I might add, I was soon going back to the familiar. Settling issues through my own means, Treating my wife as the world would, showing anger to my children, abusing my finances other stuff that were the result of high places of worshiping my own way.

What I noticed at first, gentle reminders, a word of encouragement, good sermons, what I call nudges from the Lord. To an extent, I have to say I ignored them. I kept doing things my own way and guess what?

Life started to become scattered. I felt distance from my relationship with God in the areas that I was trying to solve on my own. It was as if God had abandoned me.

Ez 20:39

What the Sovereign Lord was saying to me is Go ahead kid, do what you think is right. I'll be right over here.

Ezekiel to Jesus.: Matt 4:17

We must repent when we see we're doing life our way. Jesus is proclaiming a profound truth that if we will only grasp will set us free. It is REPENT – Turn from you own devices and experience the Kingdom of Heaven.

Psalm 81:13-16 -- Ez 20:40-44

A Charge: Where are you – In the temple of your making of your design, worshipping the idols your forefathers brought out of Egypt – Are do you want to be on the Holy Mountain of God. Repent. It's not a four letter word – It's the word for Love.