



# EZEKIEL: *Death and Resurrection*

A Bible Study with John Oswalt

## EZEKIEL 20

**Background:** The date in verse one was August 14, 591 BC, five years before the fall of Jerusalem. But already by this point Zedekiah was flirting with Egypt and contemplating revolt.

1. What can verse 3 mean? Yahweh, through Ezekiel, is telling them plenty! What sort of questions might they have been asking that Yahweh refused to answer?
2. Look for some repeated words and phrases in chapter 20. What are your observations?
3. List the situations in which Israel sinned against Yahweh? What was Yahweh's initial response in the first several cases, and what was his second response? What does this tell us about Yahweh?
4. What was Yahweh's reasoning for "withdrawing his hand" of punishment (22, but also 9, 14)? What is the meaning of that concept?
5. Notice the importance of Sabbath-keeping here. Why was it so important and why did the people desecrate it? The NT makes relatively little of the Sabbath? Why? What is the concept and what is its importance for Christians?
6. What was Yahweh's final reaction (verse 25)? Compare this to Romans 1:24, 26, 28. What does this say about the nature of judgment? What is it not?

7. We have seen several examples of the statement “Then you will know that I am Yahweh” in the book so far. What kinds of divine actions typically produced that knowledge? What is it here in verse 44? Why would this action produce that knowledge? Think about the issues of free will and determinism in this regard.
  
8. We have talked a good deal about the Hebrew words that are based on the consonants sh-p-t. In translations, these words are often associated with justice and judgment. But the basic idea is that of an accepted, or expected, pattern of behavior. The idea in verses 35 and 36 is that God is going to make his case. Look at as many different translations as you can and see how they translate the idea.
  
9. In the Hebrew Bible, 20:45–49 is included in chapter 21, and it is easy to see why. But why might it be included with chapter 20? Think about verses 1–3 and then look at verse 49.