

Unsheathing the Sword of YHWH**Ezekiel 20:45–21:17**

Veritas Adult Community

January 26, 2020

Introduction: The Avenging Sword of YHWH (20:45–21:32[21:1–37])

- A. The Riddle of the Sword 20:45–21:7
- B. The Song of the Sword 21:8–17
- C. The Agent of the Sword 21:23–32
- D. The Taunt of the Sword 21:33–37

A. The Riddle of the Sword (20:45–21:7)**1. The Presentation of the Riddle (20:45–49)**

- a. The Addressee (vv. 45–47a)
- b. The Prophecy (vv. 47b–48)
- c. The People’s Response (v. 49)

2. The Interpretation of the Riddle (21:1–7)

- a. The Verbal Interpretation: The Action of the Sword (vv. 1–5)

The Presentation of the Riddle (20:45–49)	The Interpretation of the Riddle (21:1–7)
Introductory Formula	
⁴⁵ The following message of YHWH came to me:	¹ The following message of YHWH came to me:
Commissioning Formula in Triplicate	
⁴⁶ Human, set your face toward Teman; speak out (רָצַח) against Darom, and prophesy against the brushland, Negeb.	² Human, set your face toward Jerusalem, speak out (רָצַח) against her sanctuary, and prophesy against the land of Israel.
Charge to the Prophet	
⁴⁷ Say to the brushland of the Negeb:	³ Say to the land of Israel:
Citation Formula	
“Hear the word of YHWH! Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:	Thus has YHWH declared:
Presentation/Interpretation of the Riddle	
<i>‘Look,</i> I am about to kindle a fire in you! It will consume every green tree and every dry tree in you. The blazing flame will not be extinguished, and every face <i>from south to north</i> will be scorched by it.	<i>Look,</i> I am challenging you! I will draw my sword from its scabbard, and cut off from you both the righteous and wicked. ⁴ So I may cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore, my sword will be drawn from its scabbard, against all flesh <i>from south to north</i> .
The Goal of the Oracle	
⁴⁸ Then all flesh will see that I am YHWH— I have kindled it— It will not be extinguished.”	⁵ Then all flesh will know that I am YHWH. I have drawn my sword from its scabbard— It will not return to its sheath again.

- b. The Non-Verbal Interpretation: The Effect of the Sword (vv. 6–7)
 - (1) The Prophet's Sign-Act (v. 6)
 - (2) The Significance for the Victims (v. 7)

B. The Song of the Sword (21:8–17)

- 1. **Summoning the Sword (vv. 8–11)**
- 2. **Weeping the Effects of the Sword (vv. 12–13)**
- 3. **Dramatizing the Reason for the Sword (vv. 14–17)**
 - a. The Prophet's Sign-Act (v. 14a)
 - b. The Divine Summons (vv. 14b–16)
 - c. The Shocking Disclosure (v. 17)

Application

- 1. God becomes the enemy of those who claim to be his people but refuse to accept the responsibilities accompanying the privilege.
- 2. It is indeed “a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:31).

