

GODS TAKE ON RIGHTEOUSNESS & INIQUITY

Ezekiel 18:4–32 NASB

with readings from Matthew 3 · Psalm 23 · 2 Corinthians 6

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Date: 08-02-26



EZEKIEL 18:4-6

NASB

4 Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die. 5 “But if a man is righteous and practices justice and righteousness, 6 if he does not eat at the mountain shrines or raise his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, or defile his neighbor’s wife or approach a woman during her menstrual period—



EZEKIEL 18:7-8

NASB

7 and if a man does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, does not commit robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing, 8 and if he does not lend money at interest or take interest, if he keeps his hand from injustice and executes true justice between one person and another,



EZEKIEL 18:9

NASB

9 if he walks in My statutes and keeps My ordinances so as to deal faithfully—he is righteous and will certainly live,” declares the Lord GOD.



EZEKIEL 18:10–12

NASB

10 “However, he may father a violent son who sheds blood, and does any one of these things to a brother
11 (though he himself did not do any of these things), that is, he even eats at the mountain shrines, and defiles his neighbor’s wife, 12 oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore a pledge, but raises his eyes to the idols and commits abomination,

EZEKIEL 18:13

NASB

13 lends money at interest and takes interest; will he live? He will not live! He has committed all these abominations, he shall certainly be put to death; his blood will be on himself. 14 “Now behold, he has fathered a son who saw all his father’s sins which he committed, but he has seen them and does not do likewise.



EZEKIEL 18:15

NASB

15 He does not eat at the mountain shrines or raise his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel; he has not defiled his neighbor's wife,¹⁶ nor oppressed anyone, nor retained a pledge, nor committed robbery; instead, he gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing, ¹⁷ he keeps his hand from the poor, does not take any kind of interest on loans, but executes My ordinances, and walks in My statutes;

EZEKIEL 18:17-19

NASB

17 he will not die for his father's guilt, he will certainly live. 18 "As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what was not good among his people, behold, he will die for his guilt. 19 "Yet you say, 'Why should the son not suffer the punishment for the father's guilt?'



EZEKIEL 18:19

NASB

19 When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has kept all My statutes and done them, he shall certainly live. 20 The person who sins will die. A son will not suffer the punishment for the father's guilt, nor will a father suffer the punishment for the son's guilt;



EZEKIEL 18:20

NASB

20 The person who sins will die. A son will not suffer the punishment for the father's guilt, nor will a father suffer the punishment for the son's guilt; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.



EZEKIEL 18:21–22

NASB

21 “But if the wicked person turns from all his sins which he has committed and keeps all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall certainly live; he shall not die. 22 All his offenses which he has committed will not be remembered against him; because of his righteousness which he has practiced, he will live.



EZEKIEL 18:23-24

NASB

23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he would turn from his ways and live? 24 “But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness, commits injustice and does according to all the abominations that the wicked person does, will he live?



EZEKIEL 18:24-25

NASB

24 All his righteous deeds which he has done will not be remembered for his treachery which he has committed and his sin which he has committed; for them he will die. 25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not right.’ Hear now, house of Israel! Is My way not right? Is it not your ways that are not right?



EZEKIEL 18:26-27

NASB

26 When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness, commits injustice and dies because of it, for his injustice which he has committed he dies.

27“But when a wicked person turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life.



EZEKIEL 18:28–29

NASB

28 Since he understood and turned away from all his offenses which he had committed, he shall certainly live; he shall not die. 29“Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not right.’ Are My ways not right, house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right?



EZEKIEL 18:30–31

NASB

30“Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD.

“Repent and turn away from all your offenses, so that wrongdoing does not become a stumbling block to you.

31 Hurl away from you all your offenses which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why should you die, house of Israel?



EZEKIEL 18:32

NASB

32“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live!”



EZEKIEL 18:10–11

NLT

10 But suppose that man has a son who grows up to be a robber or murderer and refuses to do what is right. 11 And that son does all the evil things his father would never do—he worships idols on the mountains, commits adultery,



EZEKIEL 18:12–13

NLT

12 oppresses the poor and helpless, steals from debtors by refusing to let them redeem their security, worships idols, commits detestable sins, 13 and lends money at excessive interest. Should such a sinful person live? No! He must die and must take full blame.



EZEKIEL 18:14–16

NLT

14 But suppose that sinful son, in turn, has a son who sees his father's wickedness and decides against that kind of life. 15 This son refuses to worship idols on the mountains and does not commit adultery. 16 He does not exploit the poor, but instead is fair to debtors and does not rob them. He gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy.



EZEKIEL 18:17-18

NLT

17 He helps the poor, does not lend money at interest, and obeys all my regulations and decrees. Such a person will not die because of his father's sins; he will surely live. 18 But the father will die for his many sins—for being cruel, robbing people, and doing what was clearly wrong among his people.



EZEKIEL 18:19

NLT

19 ‘What?’ you ask. ‘Doesn’t the child pay for the parent’s sins?’ No! For if the child does what is just and right and keeps my decrees, that child will surely live.

20 The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins.



EZEKIEL 18:20 cont'

NLT

20 Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.



MATTHEW 3:8–10

NIV

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.



EZEKIEL 18:21–22

NLT

21 But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my decrees and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die. 22 All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done.



EZEKIEL 18:23-24

NLT

23 ‘Do you think that I like to see wicked people die?’ says the Sovereign LORD. ‘Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.’

24 However, if righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things and act like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their righteous acts will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins.’

PSALM 23:4-6

KJV

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

PSALM 23

REFLECTION

The promise is for those who don't depart from the righteous way, but stay the course. At times there will be the shadow of death, trying to bring fear into your life. But verse 4 says, 'Thou art with me, and thy staff they comfort me.'



2 CORINTHIANS 6:14–15

NKJV

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? 15 And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?



2 CORINTHIANS 6:16

NKJV

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'



2 CORINTHIANS 6:17–18

NKJV

17 Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ 18 ‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.’



EZEKIEL 18:25-26

NLT

25 'Yet you say, "The Lord isn't doing what's right!" Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one not doing what's right, or is it you?' 26 'When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds.'



EZEKIEL 18:27–28

NLT

27 ‘And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. 28 They will live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die.’



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