

Ezekiel 18

Chapter 18 of 48 · 32 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Soul Who Sins Shall Die

- 1** The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying,
- 2** What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?
- 3** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.
- 4** Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.
- 5** But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,
- 6** And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstrual woman,
- 7** And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;
- 8** He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man,
- 9** Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.
- 10** If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things,

11 And that doeth not any of those duties, but even hath eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife,

12 Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination,

13 Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.

14 Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like,

15 That hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, hath not defiled his neighbour's wife,

16 Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

17 That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.

18 As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, spoiled his brother by violence, and did that which is not good among his people, lo, even he shall die in his iniquity.

19 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live.

20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

27 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

29 Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Blood — דם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

Forgive — סלוח / נשא (Salach / Nasa)

To forgive, pardon, lift up

The Hebrew **salach** (סָלַח) is used exclusively of God's forgiveness—divine pardon that only He can grant. **Nasa** (נָשָׁא) means to lift up or carry away, picturing sin being removed.

Iniquity — גַּע (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (גַּע) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Judgment — מִשְׁפָט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהֹוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהֹוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Repent — שׁוב / נחם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Righteous — צדיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צָדִיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root **tzedek** (צָדֵק), meaning righteousness or justice.

Sin — חטא (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

Spirit — רוח (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Transgression — עבירה (Pesha)

Transgression, rebellion

The Hebrew **pesha** (עַבְרִית) means transgression or rebellion—willful violation of God's law. It implies deliberate revolt against divine authority: 'he was wounded for our transgressions' (Isaiah 53:5).

Word — דְּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דְּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Ezekiel 18:2

Parallel theme: Ezekiel 17:12; 37:25; Isaiah 3:15; Jeremiah 15:4; Lamentations 5:7; Matthew 23:36; Romans 9:20. **References Israel:** Ezekiel 25:3; 37:11; 37:19

Ezekiel 18:4 **Sin:** Ezekiel 18:20; Numbers 16:22; Romans 6:23; Galatians 3:22. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 27:16; Zechariah 12:1; Hebrews 12:9

Ezekiel 18:5

Word: Ezekiel 33:14; 1 John 2:3. **Righteousness:** Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 21:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:7

Ezekiel 18:6

References Israel: Ezekiel 18:15. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 6:13; 20:24; Leviticus 20:10; 20:18; Numbers 25:2; Deuteronomy 4:19

Ezekiel 18:7 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:12; 18:16; 18:18; 33:15; Exodus 22:26; Amos 2:8; 3:10; Luke 3:11

Ezekiel 18:8 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:13; 22:12; Exodus 22:25; Psalms 15:5. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 18:17; Zechariah 8:16

Ezekiel 18:9

References Lord: Amos 5:4. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 18:17; 20:11. **Righteousness:** Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; 1 John 2:29

Ezekiel 18:10 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 21:12

Ezekiel 18:12 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 8:6; 8:17; 18:16; 2 Kings 21:11; Amos 4:1; Zechariah 7:10

Ezekiel 18:13 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:8; Exodus 22:25. **Blood:** Ezekiel 3:18; Leviticus 20:9

Ezekiel 18:14 **Parallel theme:** 2 Chronicles 34:21; Proverbs 23:24

Ezekiel 18:16 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:7

Ezekiel 18:18 **Sin:** Ezekiel 3:18

Ezekiel 18:19 **Sin:** Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 5:9. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 15:4

Ezekiel 18:20 **Sin:** Ezekiel 18:4; Numbers 18:1; Deuteronomy 24:16; 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 16:27; Revelation 2:23; 20:12. **Righteousness:** 1 Kings 8:32; 2 Chronicles 6:23

Ezekiel 18:21 **Word:** Ezekiel 18:5; 18:19; 33:19. **Sin:** Proverbs 28:13; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:9; Psalms 119:112; Romans 8:13; James 2:26

Ezekiel 18:22 **Sin:** Ezekiel 33:16; Psalms 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 50:20; Micah 7:19. **Righteousness:** Ezekiel 18:24; Hebrews 8:12. **Parallel theme:** Romans 8:1

Ezekiel 18:23 **Evil:** Ezekiel 33:11. **Parallel theme:** Luke 15:32; 1 Timothy 2:4. **References Lord:** Psalms 147:11; 2 Peter 3:9. **References God:** Ezekiel 18:32; Luke 15:10

Ezekiel 18:24 **Righteousness:** Ezekiel 18:26; 33:18. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:11; Proverbs 21:16; Galatians 3:4; 1 John 2:19; 2 John 1:8; Revelation 3:11. **Evil:** Revelation 2:10. **Sin:** Psalms 125:5

Ezekiel 18:25 **References Lord:** Ezekiel 18:29; 33:17; 33:20; Jeremiah 12:1; Zephaniah 3:5; Malachi 2:17. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 18:25

Ezekiel 18:27 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 9:13; Acts 3:19. **Word:** Ezekiel 18:21. **Evil:** Isaiah 55:7

Ezekiel 18:28 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 32:29

Ezekiel 18:29 **References Lord:** Ezekiel 18:25

Ezekiel 18:30

Parallel theme: Matthew 16:27. **Repentance:** Ezekiel 14:6; Matthew 3:2; Luke 13:3; 13:5. **Sin:** Ezekiel 18:21. **Judgment:** Ezekiel 7:3; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Hosea 12:6. **References God:** Daniel 9:13

Ezekiel 18:31 **Spirit:** Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26; Psalms 51:10; Romans 8:13. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:7; Isaiah 55:7; Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 2:1. **References Israel:** Ezekiel 33:11. **Sin:** Deuteronomy 30:19

Ezekiel 18:32

References Lord: 2 Peter 3:9. **References God:** Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11. **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 3:33

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