

Ezekiel 18:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' This introduces the possibility of apostasy—a righteous person turning away. The Hebrew *shuv* ('turn') indicates deliberate change of direction. 'And dieth in them'—dying in that state of rebellion brings judgment. This warns against presumption: past righteousness doesn't guarantee future salvation if one turns from faith.

Historical Context

Biblical examples include Saul, Solomon (partially), and Judas. The possibility of falling away is addressed throughout Scripture (Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31, 2 Peter 2:20-22). Reformed theology debates whether true believers can lose salvation, but all agree apostasy is possible for those who profess faith without true regeneration.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we hold together assurance of salvation with warnings against apostasy?
2. What does perseverance in faith reveal about the genuineness of conversion?

Interlinear Text

בָּשׁוּב man turneth away H7725	צַדִּיק When a righteous H6662	מִצְדִּיקָתוֹ from his righteousness H6666	עָשָׂה and committeth H6213
בְּעוֹלָם in them for his iniquity H5766	יָמוֹת: and dieth H4191	עָלֶיהָ H5921	בְּעוֹלָם in them for his iniquity H5766
עָשָׂה and committeth H6213	יָמוֹת: and dieth H4191		

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