

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

Psalm 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	צַדִּיקָת	מִצְדָּקָת	עָשָׂה
man turneth away	When a righteous	from his righteousness	and committeth
H7725	H6662	H6666	H6213
בְּעִיל	עַלְיָה	בְּעִיל	אֲשֶׁר
in them for his iniquity	and dieth	in them for his iniquity	
H5766	H4191	H5921	H834
עָשָׂה	יְמִוּתָה	עָשָׂה	
and committeth	and dieth		
H6213	H4191		

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