

Ezekiel 18:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' The flip side: a wicked person can repent and find life. 'Turneth away' (Hebrew shuv) is the word for repentance—changing direction. Doing 'that which is lawful and right' demonstrates genuine repentance. 'He shall save his soul alive'—repentance brings salvation. This offers hope to the worst sinners.

Historical Context

Examples include Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:12-13), Nineveh (Jonah 3), and the thief on the cross (Luke 23:42-43). No one is beyond God's reach. The gospel offers salvation to anyone who repents and believes, regardless of past wickedness. This prepares for the New Covenant promise of heart transformation (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the possibility of late-in-life repentance encourage evangelism to hardened sinners?
2. What does 'saving his soul alive' involve both now and eternally?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֵׂה וּבָשָׂר וְבָשָׂר	רְשָׁעָה	מִרְשָׁעָתוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	וַיַּעֲשֵׂה וְ
man turneth away	Again when the wicked	from his wickedness	H834	and doeth
H7725	H7563	H7564		H6213
וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	מִשְׁפָט	וְצִדְקָה	אֶת	יְתָהָה:
and doeth	that which is lawful	and right	H1931	H853
H6213	H4941	H6666		H5315
				H2421

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Ezekiel 18:21 (Word): 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.

Isaiah 55:7 (Evil): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Acts 3:19 (Parallel theme): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord:

Matthew 9:13 (Parallel theme): But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

