

Ezekiel 18:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

"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." God's judgment is personal and equitable—each person judged according to their own ways. The command to repent emphasizes both negative (turn from sin) and positive (turn to God) aspects. The phrase "so iniquity shall not be your ruin" promises that genuine repentance prevents destruction. This demonstrates God's desire: He judges justly but prefers mercy. The Reformed emphasis on God's sovereign grace appears alongside human responsibility—God commands repentance and grants it to the elect.

Historical Context

This summation (591 BC) concludes Ezekiel 18's teaching on individual responsibility. The exiles needed clear understanding: judgment is personal, not merely corporate or generational. Each person bears responsibility for their response to God. The call to repentance offered hope: genuine conversion prevents ruin despite past wickedness. This principle sustained Jewish faith through diaspora and shaped Christian soteriology—individual accountability before God, salvation through repentance and faith. The early church proclaimed this same message: repent and believe the gospel.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does individual judgment according to personal ways challenge attempts to blame circumstances or heritage?
2. What does the promise that repentance prevents ruin teach about God's desire to save rather than condemn?

Interlinear Text

אַתֶּם לְכִי אֵשׁ קְדֹבֶכְיִי אָשֶׁר תִּשְׁפַּט לְכִי H3651 every one according to his ways Therefore I will judge H853 H376 H1870 H8199

לֹא מְכַל יְהִי הַלְּאָהָרָן פְּשָׁעִים מִכְּלָה H3605 yourselves from all your transgressions H3808 H1961 H0 H6588

לֹמַכֵּשׁ וְלֹעֲזָן:

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:27 (Parallel theme): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels: and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 3:2 (Repentance): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Ezekiel 18:21 (Sin): 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.

Luke 13:3 (Repentance): I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Ezekiel 7:3 (Judgment): Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

Ezekiel 14:6 (Repentance): Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Hosea 12:6 (Judgment): Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Luke 13:5 (Repentance): I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Daniel 9:13 (References God): As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Judgment): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.