

Ezekiel 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

'Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.' This verse summarizes: covenant faithfulness (walking in statutes), obedience (keeping judgments), and integrity (dealing truly). The divine verdict: 'he is just, he shall surely live.' The Hebrew *chayah chayah* ('live, live') uses emphatic repetition—absolute certainty. This life includes both temporal blessing and eternal salvation, depending on context.

Historical Context

In the Deuteronomic covenant, obedience brought life and blessing, disobedience brought death and curse (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). Ezekiel applies this principle individually: each person's fate depends on their own righteousness or wickedness. This prepares for the New Covenant where Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers, producing obedient fruit.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we hold together faith alone for salvation with the fruit of obedience as evidence?
2. What does 'surely live' mean in both temporal and eternal dimensions?

Interlinear Text

בְּחֻקֹּתַי	יִהְיֶה	וּמִשְׁפָּטַי	שָׁמַר	לַעֲשׂוֹת	אֲמֵן
in my statutes	Hath walked	my judgments	and hath kept	to deal	truly
H2708	H1980	H4941	H8104	H6213	H571
צֶדֶק יִהְיֶה	הוא	יִחְיֶה	יִחְיֶה	נֹאמַר	אֲדַבֵּר
he is just	H1931	he shall surely	he shall surely	saith	the Lord
H6662		H2421	H2421	H5002	H136
					H3069

Additional Cross-References

Amos 5:4 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

Ezekiel 20:11 (Judgment): And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

Habakkuk 2:4 (Righteousness): Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Ezekiel 18:17 (Judgment): 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.

1 John 2:29 (Righteousness): If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Romans 1:17 (Righteousness): For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

