

Who Will Bear Our Sins?

Ezekiel 18 – It is useless for us to blame others for our sins

Introduction

- Many confused about the definition of sin
- Also, confusion about who is responsible for our sins
- From Gen. 3 forward, man has sought to shift the blame for his sins to avoid consequences
- True in the days of the prophet Ezekiel also

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Introduction

- Background – God was punishing His people for their sins by bringing the Babylonians against them
- Ezekiel was one who had been taken captive and was commanded to prophesy to the stubborn, excuse-making people
- In Ezekiel 18, God refutes the people's false idea that they could blame their parents or their children or anyone else for their own sins

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Some Of The Questions Answered By Ezekiel 18

Are we responsible for our own sins?
Do our sins have any effect on others especially our children?
Does our righteousness have any effect on others especially our children?
Can we turn from wickedness to righteousness?

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Some Of The Questions Answered By Ezekiel 18

Can we turn from righteousness to wickedness?
Is sin inherited?
Is righteousness inherited?

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Who Will Bear Our Sins?

What is sin?
Divine principle about sin in Ezekiel 18
Applications of the Divine principle
Divine principle illustrated in three generations
Ahaz – wicked king
Hezekiah – righteous king
Manasseh – wicked king who repented

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What Is Sin?

Sin is violation of God's law

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

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What Is Sin?

- Sin is not inherited
- Sin is not a disease
- Sin is a willing act we commit that makes us guilty before God
- We are responsible for our sins, not our parents or Adam or anyone else

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Divine Principle About Sin In Ezekiel 18

Eze 18:1 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 18:2 "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

Eze 18:3 "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore.

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Divine Principle About Sin In Ezekiel 18

Eze 18:4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

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Divine Principle About Sin In Ezekiel 18

- Their proverb sought to blame their parents for their sins
- God's principle says the soul who sins will die
- You are responsible for your own sins
- Speaking of being separated from God by our sins
- The applications of this principle are stated in the rest of the chapter

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If Righteousness Is Practiced, He Will Live

Eze 18:5 "But if a man is righteous and practices justice and righteousness,
Eze 18:6 and does not eat at the mountain *shrines* or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, or defile his neighbor's wife or approach a woman during her menstrual period--

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If Righteousness Is Practiced, He Will Live

Eze 18:7 if a man does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, does not commit robbery, *but* gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing,

Eze 18:8 if he does not lend *money* on interest or take increase, *if* he keeps his hand from iniquity *and* executes true justice between man and man,

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If Righteousness Is Practiced, He Will Live

Eze 18:9 *if* he walks in My statutes and My ordinances so as to deal faithfully--he is righteous *and* will surely live," declares the Lord GOD.

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His Unrighteous Son Will Bear His Own Sins

Eze 18:10 "Then he may have a violent son who sheds blood and who does any of these things to a brother

Eze 18:11 (though he himself did not do any of these things), that is, he even eats at the mountain *shrines*, and defiles his neighbor's wife,

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His Unrighteous Son Will Bear His Own Sins

Eze 18:12 oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore a pledge, but lifts up his eyes to the idols *and* commits abomination,

Eze 18:13 he lends *money* on interest and takes increase; will he live? He will not live! He has committed all these abominations, he will surely be put to death; his blood will be on his own head.

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Righteous Grandson Will Live

Eze 18:14 "Now behold, he has a son who has observed all his father's sins which he committed, and observing does not do likewise.

Eze 18:17 he keeps his hand from the poor, does not take interest or increase, *but* executes My ordinances, and walks in My statutes; he will not die for his father's iniquity, he will surely live.

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Each Bears His Own Sins

Eze 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

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The Wicked Can Turn To Righteousness

Eze 18:21 "But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

Eze 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"

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The Righteous Can Turn To Wickedness

Eze 18:24 "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and does according to all the abominations that a wicked man does, will he live? All his righteous deeds which he has done will not be remembered for his treachery which he has committed and his sin which he has committed; for them he will die.

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Ahaz – Wicked King

2Ch 28:1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father *had done*.

2Ch 28:2 But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made molten images for the Baals.

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Ahaz – Wicked King

2Ch 28:3 Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel.

2Ch 28:4 He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

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Hezekiah – Righteous King

2Ki 18:3 He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

2Ki 18:4 He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

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Hezekiah – Righteous King

2Ki 18:5 He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor *among those who were before him*.

2Ki 18:6 For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.

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Hezekiah – Righteous King

2Ki 18:7 And the LORD was with him; wherever he went he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

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Manasseh – Wicked King Who Repented

2Ch 33:2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

2Ch 33:3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

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Manasseh – Wicked King Who Repented

2Ch 33:4 He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever."

2Ch 33:5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

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Manasseh – Wicked King Who Repented

2Ch 33:6 He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him *to anger*.

2Ch 33:9 Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

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Manasseh – Wicked King Who Repented

2Ch 33:11 Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze *chains* and took him to Babylon.

2Ch 33:12 When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

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Manasseh – Wicked King Who Repented

2Ch 33:15 He also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw *them* outside the city.

2Ch 33:16 He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

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What We Have Learned In This Lesson

Each bears guilt of our own sins
Sin and righteousness not transferrable
We can influence one another to do right or wrong
Sometimes consequences of others' sins are passed to us but not their guilt

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What We Have Learned In This Lesson

Can do right no matter how sinful background
Can do wrong no matter how righteous background

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