

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 18-21: God is Just (Part 2)
Lesson 20 "Individual Responsibility" (Part 2)
Ezekiel 18:1-32 (ANSWERS)
January 24, 2021

Recap from Lesson 19:

1. Individual Responsibility (Ezek. 18:1-32)

- a. The prophet Jeremiah quoted the same familiar proverb and preached the same truth that Ezekiel preached: "**God Deals with us an individuals and Punishes each of us justly for what we do.**" (Jer. 31:29-30)
- b. **You Cannot Blame Your Ancestors** (Vss. 5-18)
 - i. The prophet refutes a proverb by imagining a situation involving three men in a family, people whom his listeners certainly could identify.
 1. He began with a **Righteous** Father (Ezek. 18:5-9), a hypothetical Jew who kept God's law and therefor was just and would not die because of **Sin** (Vss. 4, 9).
 - a. In describing this man, Ezekiel named **Eight** negative offenses along with Eight **Positive** virtues.
 2. The Righteous Father had an **Unrighteous** Son (Ezek. 18:10-13), about whom Ezekiel had nothing good to say.
 - a. He listed ten offenses against God's law, three of them capital crimes, **Murder** (Vs. 10), **Idolatry** (Vss. 11-12), and **Adultery** (Vs. 11).
 3. The Third character was a **Righteous** Grandson (Ezek. 18:14-18)
 - ii. The point is that the third man, the grandson, resisted the bad **Influence** in the home and **Obeded** the Lord in spite of his **Father's** bad example.

Lesson 20

1. You can Blame Yourself (Vss. 19-24)

- a. He described a **Wicked** man who **Repented**, turned from his sins, and lived (Vss. 19-23), and then described a **Righteous** man who **Returned** to his sins and died (Vs. 24).
 - i. The lesson from these two examples is obvious and answered their questions: People **Determine** their own **Character** and **Destiny** by the decisions that they make.
 - ii. Their own **Disbelief** (They rejected Jeremiah's message) and **Disobedience** (They worshipped heathen idols and defiled the temple) brought the Babylonian army to their gates!
- b. Ezekiel was giving the Jewish nation a message of **Hope!** If they would truly repent and turn to the Lord, He would work on their behalf as He promised. (Jer. 29:10-14)
 - i. However, if they persisted in sinning, the Lord would continue to deal with them as rebellious children.
- c. God has no **Delight** in the death of the wicked. But He is **Not** obligated to invade their **Minds** and **Hearts**. (Ezek. 18:23, 32; 2 Pt. 3:9).

- d. In **Ezek. 18:24**, Ezekiel is not dealing with what theologians call “The **Security** of the believer,” because the issue is physical life or death, as stated in God’s covenant. (**Jer. 21:8**)
2. **You Cannot Blame the Lord (Vss. 25-32)**
- a. The word “**Equal**” means “**Fair.**” They were saying that God was not playing fair with His people. But Ezekiel pointed out that it was the people who were not being fair to God.
- i. They wanted God to act **Contrary** to His own **Word** and His own holy **Nature**.
- ii. “**God is light**” (**I Jn. 1:5**), which means He is **Holy** and **Just**, and “**God is love**” (**I Jn. 4:8**), and His love is a **Holy** love.

Conclusion:

- The conclusion of this message was an **Invitation** from the Lord for the people to repent (Change their minds), turn from their sins, cast away their transgressions like filthy garments, and seek a new heart and a new spirit!
- God promised them a new heart if only they would seek Him by faith. (**Ezek. 11:19**)

Chapter 19: Leadership Responsibility

- Ezekiel made it clear that individual Jews were responsible for their own sins, but was also true that their leaders had led them astray because they had rebelled against God.
- Whether you read secular or sacred history, you soon discover that people become like their leaders.
- In discussing the sins of the leaders, Ezekiel used two familiar images- the **Lion (Vss. 1-9)**, and the **Vine (Vss. 10-14)** and he couched his message in the form of a funeral dirge for the “**Princes of Israel.**” (**Ezek. 19:1, 7:27**)
- Instead of lamenting their demise, the funeral dirge actually **Ridiculed** the rulers of Israel, but later (**Ezek. 21:27**) Ezekiel would announce the coming of the **Messiah**, the Son of David, who would be a worthy king.
1. **Israel is Like a Lioness (Vss. 1-9)**
- a. The Lioness represents the Nation of Israel, or at least the royal tribe of **Judah**. (**Gen. 49:9; Num. 23:23**)
- i. In this brief parable, the Lord made it **Clear** that these two kings of Judah though themselves to be great leaders, but they **Ignored** the Word of God, and He **Cut** them down after their brief reigns.
2. **Israel is Like a Vine (Vss. 10-14)**
- a. (**Gen. 29:10-12; Jer. 2:21**)
- b. Had the Nation of Israel obeyed the Lord, it would have become and remained a mighty lion and a fruitful vine that would have brought glory to the name of the Lord.
- i. Israel did not keep the terms of the covenant, but the Lord did, and that is why He chastened them, and scattered them.
1. God’s chosen people have no **Temple**, Priesthood, Sacrifice, or **King**. (**Hos. 3:4-5**)

- c. Jesus Christ, Israel's **Messiah**, came as the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**) and the **True Vine** (**Jn. 15:1**), and the rightful heir to the throne of David, and His **Own** people **Rejected** Him.
 - i. One day they shall **See** Him and **Receive** Him, and God's gracious covenant with David will be completely fulfilled (**2 Sam. 7**) when Jesus reigns in His kingdom

