



# It Is Up To Us

*Lessons From*

# Ezekiel 1-18

Personally Accountable Before God - 1-18  
Our Standing Before God Is Up To Us - 19-32



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## Ezekiel the Man (Son of Man)



- Name - "God strengthens" (2:5; 3:7-8)
- Born during Josiah's reign 622 B.C.,
- A priest, then a prophet (1:3)
- Was married - (24:15-18)
- Witnessed captivity of 605 B.C.
- Carried away in 597 B.C. to Babylon - Ezek. 2:4; 3:7; 5:11; 6:13; 8:1ff; 9:9; etc.)
- Began preaching in 592 B.C., 30 years old (Jerusalem fell in 586 B.C.)



# EZEKIEL

## JEWISH EXILES IN BABYLONIA

2 KGS. 24:10-16; 25:8-12  
JER. 52:28-34  
EZEK. 3:15  
EZRA 2:59; 8:17

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Jewish exiles' route
- Neo-Babylonian Empire





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## The Background of The Book

- The situation on the River Chebar in Babylon was mixed:
- Some were pious (Psa. 137)
- Others idolatrous (Ezek. 14:4; 20:30)
- Many rejected Ezekiel (Ezek. 14:1-3; 18:19,25; 20:49; 33:32)
- Most thought their stay would be short (Ezek. 13:16-19; see Jer. 29:5ff)





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## The Message of The Book



- The doctrine of God – The Lord's glory - (1:24,28; 10:18; 11:23; 36:21-22; 39:7,25)
- Foretold the Messiah – the true and faithful Prince (17:22-24; 21:27; 34:23-24; 37:24; 44:3)
- The kingdom of God – the people with a new heart and new covenant (11:17,20; 16:62; 20:43; 34:11-19,23,24; 36:27,33; 37:24-28; 39:27,29; 46:9)
- Man's duty – individual responsibility & accountability before God (11:19; 18:4ff; 33:11; 36:26; 37:23; 43:9)



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## Ezekiel 18:1-4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, <sup>2</sup>

“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup> “*As I live,*” says the Lord God, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup> “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.



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## Ezekiel 18:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

- The proverb being circulated was apparently well known in Israel / Jeremiah mentions it (cf. Jer. 31:29-30; Lam 5:7).
- Isn't there a sense in which the proverb is TRUE? - (Ex. 20:5; 34:6-7; Dt. 5:9; 2 Ki 23:26; 24:3,4).
- Ezekiel also had traced God's judgment upon the nation back to the people's past actions (cf. Ezek. 16:15-29).



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## Ezekiel 18:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

- It is TRUE that sin has long lasting effects, and causes wide spread collateral damage — Exodus 20:5; 1 Kings 12:28-33; Gen. 3:1-19
- But it is NOT TRUE that God is responsible / or that God is UNFAIR / or that God is unconcerned — Exo. 20:6
- God was not punishing them for their father’s sins but it was rather the consequence of their father’s sins! — (2 Kings 23:26; 24:3,4)



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**HIS FAULT**

- My physical circumstances may well be dictated by the sins of others — Gen 3:1-19

**HER FAULT**

- But my spiritual condition and relationship with God is determined by my actions and no one else's — Rom. 5:12; 14:10-12; Gal. 6:7-9; etc.

**THEIR FAULT**

**NOT ME**

- I am accountable before God for my sins - but God will never hold me accountable for someone else's sin — vs. 4-18



## Ezekiel 18:4-18 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. <sup>5</sup> But if a man is just And does what is lawful and right; <sup>6</sup> If he has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife, Nor approached a woman during her impurity; <sup>7</sup> If he has not oppressed anyone, *But* has restored to the debtor his pledge; Has robbed no one by violence, *But* has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing; <sup>8</sup> If he has not exacted usury Nor taken any increase, *But* has withdrawn his hand from iniquity *And* executed true judgment between man and man; <sup>9</sup> *If* he has walked in My statutes— And kept My judgments faithfully— He *is* just; He shall surely live!” Says the Lord God.



## Ezekiel 18:4-18 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> “If he begets a son *who is* a robber Or a shedder of blood, *Who* does any of these *things* <sup>11</sup> And does none of those *duties*, But has eaten on the mountains Or defiled his neighbor’s wife; <sup>12</sup> If he has oppressed the poor and needy, Robbed by violence, Not restored the pledge, Lifted his eyes to the idols, *Or* committed abomination; <sup>13</sup> If he has exacted usury Or taken increase— Shall he then live? He shall not live! If he has done any of these abominations, He shall surely die; His blood shall be upon him.



## Ezekiel 18:4-18 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> “*If*, however, he begets a son Who sees all the sins which his father has done, And considers but does not do likewise; <sup>15</sup> *Who* has not eaten on the mountains, Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife; <sup>16</sup> Has not oppressed anyone, Nor withheld a pledge, Nor robbed by violence, *But* has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing; <sup>17</sup> *Who* has withdrawn his hand from the poor *And* not received usury or increase, But has executed My judgments And walked in My statutes He shall not die for the iniquity of his father; He shall surely live! <sup>18</sup> “*As for* his father, Because he cruelly oppressed, Robbed his brother by violence, And did what *is* not good among his people, Behold, he shall die for his iniquity.



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## **Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

- Neither sin, (nor righteousness), is transferable — Ez. 18:20
- The one who commits sin is the one who will be held accountable for his sin before God — 2 Kings 14:6; Gal. 6:7-9
- The doctrine of total hereditary depravity is false — Sin is NOT inherited — I am guilty for my sin and no one else's - Jer. 31:29,30; Rom 5:12; 2:6-9



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## **Ezekiel 18:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

## ■ Sin Is NOT INHERITED

- Ecclesiastes 7:29. God made man upright ...
- Isaiah 59:1-8. Your sins and iniquities, have separated ...
- Matthew 18:1-5. we are to become like children ...
- Romans 7:9-11. Paul was born spiritually alive before he sinned . (Rom. 5:12; Col. 2:13)
- 1 John 3:4. One is a sinner when he commits sin ...



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## Ezekiel 18:21-22 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>22</sup> None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. (cf. vs. 27)

- Sin Is FORGIVEABLE ...
  - There is HOPE for the sinner IF HE REPENTS! —
  - Repentance includes both the turning away from sin and turning to God's righteous standard — Act 2:38; 8:22; 11:18; 17:30; 26:20; Rom 2:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:21; 2 Pet 3:9; etc.
  - Actual forgiveness was made possible through the blood of Jesus — Heb 9:15



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## Ezekiel 18:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “*and* not that he should turn from his ways and live?

**1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**



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## Ezekiel 18:24 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> “But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked *man* does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. (cf. vs. 26)

- What IF a righteous man turns to sin? ...
- He is **NO LONGER RIGHT** with God - **He SHALL DIE** — will be held accountable for the sin he commits / separated from God - Isa 59:1,2; Rom. 2:5-11
- Someone who is righteous can become unrighteous — (OSAS is false) — John 15:1-10; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Gal 5:1-5; Heb. 3;4;6;10; 2 Pet 2



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## Ezekiel 18:25 , 29 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? ...

<sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

- They accused God of being unfair in His treatment of them — (33:17, 20. Job 32:2; 34:5–10; 35:2; 40:8; 42:4–6. Mal. 2:17; 3:13–15. Mt. 20:11–15; Ro. 3:5, 20; 9:20; 10:3)
- God is FAIR, i.e., **impartial** — the guilty he will punish, the righteous he will reward, and even more, the penitent he will forgive — **God is MERCIFUL!** — (cf. Rom. 2:5–11; Acts 10:34; 9:14–16; etc.)



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## **Ezekiel 18:30-32 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God.

“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”



# It Is Up To Us

We ARE Personally Accountable  
Before God - Rom 2:5-11

We Have All Sinned - Rom 3:23

We all deserve death - Rom 6:23

Jesus came, died & was raised so I  
can be forgiven of my sins by faith  
in Him - Rom 5:1-11; 10:6-17





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If we repent (turn from sin and turn to God's standard of righteousness) we can be saved and live - Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6, 16-18; 1 Pet 1:13-23

**It is up to us —  
(WHY WILL YOU DIE?)**

Deuteronomy 30:11-15; Joshua 24:15;  
Rom. 6:16-18; Eph 2:1-10; Titus 2:11,12









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*Lessons From*

**Ezekiel 18**

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