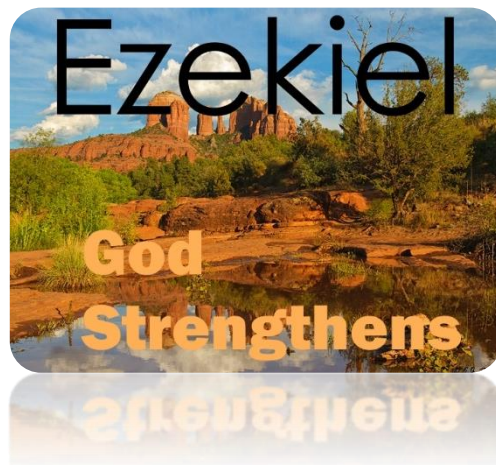


# EZEKIEL 18 vs 1

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God the Creator cares more for His creation than anyone I know; after all, He owns it... and He is the God of the living – in competition with nobody. So, we might be presumptuously wrong to use the popular phrase: **it's my life**. Is it? Since when did I do something to own it? What if we are merely renting it... which was a gift from God? Then we might need to come up with a better phrase to precisely throw around, right?



<sup>1</sup> **The word of the LORD came to me again, saying,**

<sup>2</sup> **What do you mean using this proverb concerning the land of **Israel**, saying,**

**The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?** / this proverb was a whiny criticism of the people toward God, now alleging they were absent from the land... due to the indiscretions of their fathers. To the fathers, the grapes looked plump and tempting, though when they partook it turned out sour, bitter – less than delicious in their reflection... and now, their children are paying the price.

<sup>3</sup> **As I live, says the Lord GOD, you will no longer use this proverb in **Israel**.**

<sup>4</sup> **Behold** / pay attention... because God is a good Teacher and He is teaching a great lesson; He is not trying to teach us a great lesson; He has no difficulty communicating; nothing is wrong with His method of teaching; if there is a difficulty, it is with the students hearing; we better ~~try to~~... no; we better understand,

**Behold** / pay attention...

**all souls are Mine** / end of the subject; does any fool want to argue with God?

**the soul of the father, as well as the soul of the son are Mine: the soul who sins, will die** / anything too difficult to understand? Anything unclear?

<sup>5</sup> **But if a man is upright, and does what is just and right,**

<sup>6</sup> **if he does not eat upon the mountains** / remember the LORD is talking to an intelligent group of people who for some reason... were having strange lunches of perverse things on their highest places,

**nor lift up his eyes to the idols of **the house of Israel**** / nor envy the powerless, phony idols,

**nor defile his neighbor's wife, nor come near a woman menstruating,**

<sup>7</sup> **And does not oppress anyone;**

**who restores to the debtor his pledge,**

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who violates and robs no one,

rather who gives his bread to the hungry,

and covers the thread-bare naked with a garment;

<sup>8</sup> who does not lend money with interest, nor takes any increase,

who keeps his hand from iniquity / from inequity,

who executes true justice between one another / man or woman,

<sup>9</sup> who walks in My statutes, and keeps My judgments, to deal truthfully;

that one is just, and will surely live, says the Lord GOD.

<sup>10</sup> If he begets a son who is a robber, or a murderer, who does similarly to someone,

<sup>11</sup> (though he / the father... did not do these), who eats upon the mountains, and defiles his neighbor's wife,

<sup>12</sup> who oppresses the poor and needy, who violates and robs, who has not restored the pledge, who lifts up his eyes to the idols, and commits abomination,

<sup>13</sup> who only lends with interest, and takes the increase: will he live?

he will **not** live: he has done all these abominations; he will surely die; his blood will be on his head.

<sup>14</sup> Now, lo, if he begets a son, who sees all his father's sins which he has done, and considers, and does **not** do likewise,

<sup>15</sup> Who has not lunched on the mountaintops, nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of **the house of Israel**, who has not defiled his neighbor's wife,

<sup>16</sup> nor has oppressed anyone, who has not withheld the pledge, nor violated and robbed, but who has given his bread to the hungry, and has covered the naked with a garment,

<sup>17</sup> Who keeps his hand off the poor, who has not received usury nor increase, who executes My judgments, and walks in My statutes; he will **not** die for the iniquity of his father,

he will surely live.

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<sup>18</sup> As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, he violated his brother robbing him, and did what was **not** good among his people,

lo / mark this, highlight this, **he will die for his iniquity.**

<sup>19</sup> You ask, Why? Does not the son bear the iniquity of the father?

When the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes, and has done them, he will surely live.

<sup>20</sup> **The soul who sins, will die.** The son will not bear punishment for the sin of the father,

nor will the father bear punishment for the sin of the son: the rightness of the right one will be on him, and the wrongness of the wrong one will be on him.

<sup>21</sup> But if the wrong one turns from all the sins he committed, and keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he will surely live, he will not die.

<sup>22</sup> All his transgressions he committed, they will not be mentioned to him: in his rightness which he has done, he will live.

<sup>23</sup> Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wrong one? says the Lord GOD: and not that he should turn from his ways, and live?

<sup>24</sup> But when the right one turns from his rightness, and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wrong one does, will he live? All his rightness that he has done **will not be mentioned**: in his trespasses that he has done, and in his sin that he has done, in them he will die.

<sup>25</sup> Yet you say, The way of the LORD is not equal.

Hear now, **O house of Israel** / the Lord is going to silence the thoughtless critic;

Is not My way equal? Are not your ways **unequal**? / the LORD says, aren't you just a little confused?

<sup>26</sup> When a right one turns from his rightness, and commits iniquity, and dies because of it; for his iniquity that he has done he will die.

<sup>27</sup> Again, when the wrong man turns from his wrongness that he has committed, **and does what is lawful and right**, he will save his soul.

<sup>28</sup> For he reconsiders and turns from all his transgressions / all his endless stepping over the line which he has committed, he will surely live, he will **not** die.

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<sup>29</sup> But **the house of Israel** says, The way of the LORD is not equal.

**O house of Israel**, are not My ways equal? Are not your ways unequal?

<sup>30</sup> So, I will judge you, **O house of Israel** / those who claim they are governed by God, **everyone according to his ways, says the Lord GOD.**

**Reconsider, and turn from all your rebellion** / rethink your skillful attempts of stepping over the line; always changing and moving that line; so **iniquity will not be your ruin.**

<sup>31</sup> **Throw away all your transgressions, whereby you have transgressed; and you make a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?** / Hebrews 12 says: let us throw aside every weight, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and run with endurance the race set before us. This was a favorite verse of Charles Finney during his early revivals in America.

We must abandon our impulsive, rebellious tendencies... with resolution to never again return to them. God admonishes us to do what is in our power, and pray for what is not. He will not do it without us; we cannot do it without Him.

Matthew Henry writes: We have here the conclusion and application of this whole matter. After a fair trial at the bar of right reason, the verdict is brought in on God's side. **His ways are equal.** So justice is next to be given; and one would think that it should be a judgment of condemnation, nothing short of... Go, you cursed, into everlasting fire. But the speculators are wrong.

<sup>32</sup> **For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, says the Lord GOD:**

**so, turn around and live.**