

Biblical Notes – Ezekiel 18:5-9; 10; 14; 20-29

5-9 – “But if a man is righteous and practices justice and righteousness, [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- [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, [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, [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.

הנאיש כיי-יהנה צדיק ועשה משפט וצדקה:ואלה-הקרים לא אכל ועיניו לא נשא אל-גלולי בית ישראל ואת-אשת רעהו לא טמא ואל-אשה נדה לא יקרב:וואיש לא יזנה חבלתו חוב לשיב גזלה לא יגזל לקמול לרעב יתן ועירם יכסה-בגד:חבבשה לא יתן וטרבית לא יקח מענל לשיב ידו משפט אמת געשה בין איש לאיש:טבחוקתי יתקד ומשפטי שמר לעשות אמת צדיק הוא חנה יהיה נאם אדני יהיה:

It's quite clear that the entire passage is rooted in the hypothetical. Vs.5-9 teaches that if you do practice justice, if you do not practice oppression, if you walk faithfully you will surely live. It starts entirely dependant upon *if* you do these things.

10,14,20 – “Then he may have a violent son who sheds blood and who does any of these things to a brother [14] "Now behold, he has a son who has observed all his father's sins which he committed, and observing does not do likewise. [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.

ויהוליד ברפריז שפד גם ועשה את מאתד מאלה: ידונה הוליד בן נפרא את-פל-טטאת אביו אשר עשה ונראה) כתיב ונראה) ולא געשה פקדו: כהנפש החטאת היא תמות בן לא-ישא אביו ואלו לא ישא בענוו הבן צדקת הצדיק עליו תהיה ורשעת הרשע) כתיב רשע) עליו תהיה

We then see the consequences of the son who is violent and sheds blood. Everyone will be punished for their own sins (Father for his sins and Son for his sins).

21-23 – “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. [22] All his transgressions which he has committed will not be remembered against him; because of his righteousness which he has practiced, he will live. [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?

אנהרשע כי ישוב מכל-טטאתיו) כתיב טטאתו) אשר עשה ושמר את-פל-קומי ועשה משפט וצדקה חנה לא ימות: ככפל-פשעיו אשר עשה לא יזכרו לו בצדקתו אשר-עשה יחנה גהתפז אחרץ מות רשע נאם אדני יהנה הלוא בשוכו מדרכיו) כתיב מדרכו) ותנה:

Vs.21 again supplies us with a hypothetical “BUT IF” the wicked man turns he will surely live he will not die. Obviously, God has no pleasure in killing the wicked who refuse to repent but would rather the wicked would turn from their sin and live. This is consistent with the entire message of scripture.

24-29 – “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. [25] Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Hear now, O house of Israel! Is My way not right? Is it not your ways that are not right? [26] When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity and dies because of it, for his iniquity which he has committed he will die. [27] Again, when a wicked man turns away from his wickedness which he has committed and practices justice and righteousness, he will save his life. [28] Because he considered and turned away from all his transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [29] But the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right?

