

The WordSeekers : XtremeXplorationSundays Bible-Study Notes

June 25, 2005

**“Accepting Individual Responsibility”
Or, “Who, Me?”**

Ezekiel 18:1 – 24

FOCAL VERSES: Ezekiel 18: 1 – 10, 13b

Observation ‘Satellite-Level’ Ezekiel Chapters: 18: A flyover

God is telling Ezekiel to tell the exiles in Babylon to “individually take responsibility for the choice of being wicked or righteous.” No longer will the people be judged by God according to the deeds of their fathers.

Interpretation ‘Pedestrian-Level’ Ezekiel Chapter: 18—Why did they believe this?

Ezekiel 18: 1 – 2 Three Reasons They Believed This Way...

1. God revealed to His people that succeeding generations would suffer for the sins of previous generations. **READ Exodus 20:5**
2. Ezekiel’s preaching blamed the fall of Judah on the disobedience to God by previous generations.
3. Even stalwart people like Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah were not spared exile and death.

Ezekiel 18: 3 -4

This is God’s declaration to the people that a new attitude and perspective is now in order. The individual is now responsible for his choices do to good or evil.

Righteousness cannot be transferred to another person. Likewise, we cannot push the blame for our wrong choices on others.

Ezekiel 18: 5 – 10, 13b

These verses demonstrate what a ‘righteous’ man does. According to God, a life made of good choices will result in a joyous life here on earth and rewards in heaven.

Matthew 7:17 Jesus talks about ‘the good tree that bears good fruit.’

In verse 10 and 13b, God is saying that the wicked son of a righteous man will pay for his own sinfulness.

Read Ezekiel 18: 30 32

Read Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34

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Life Application:

LAST WEEK: Acting on God's Word

(P. R. A. C. T. I. C. E.)

(Careless) CHOICES AFFECTING A FUTURE GENERATION

Personal Habits

- Exercise
- Diet
- Sleeping
- Smoking

Family

- Fidelity
- Drinking/Alcoholism
- Drug Addiction
- Physical and Sexual Abuse
- Pornography

Moral

- Theft
- Lying
- Cursing

Career

- Work-type
- One-company
- Climbing-the-ladder

Spiritual Habits

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- Worship
- Prayer
- Daily Devotion
- In-depth Bible Studying
- Service
- Caring-for-others
 - Health
 - Salvation (THE MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCE)