

Bible Study Guide
Ezekiel 18
June 23, 2021

Read Ezekiel 18.

1. Many commentators speak of this chapter as being particularly important. One wrote, "Theologically, this chapter must rank as one of the most important in the book." What do you see in the chapter that might cause them to think that?

2. What is the meaning of the proverb mentioned in 18:2? How was it being applied among the people of Israel in Ezekiel's day (What was the people's complaint against God)? Does this describe how people in our day think about God? Explain.

3. How does God respond to their use of this proverb (18:3-4)?

4. In 18:5-18 God illustrates his point by presenting three case studies in divine justice. Who are the three characters involved (18:5-9, 10-13, 14-18)? How do you and I fare in regard to the criteria established by God as to whether we deserve death or not? If God judges a person according to their actions, what hope is there for any of us?

5. As you look at the list of sins in 18:6-9, are there questions that come to mind or comments to make? What do the kinds of behavior and character qualities listed in these verses tell us about what is important from God's perspective?

6. How does Ezekiel answer the question, “Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father? (18:19-20, ESV) [NIV: “Why does the son not share in the guilt of his father”]?
7. What phrase begins Ezekiel 18:19, 25, 29? What does that tell us about the reason the people were objecting to what God was doing?
8. How can we understand the teaching in Ezekiel 18:1-20 in relation to the words from the law (Exodus 20:5-6), “I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments”? Doesn’t Exodus teach that children are punished for their parents’ sins?
9. What do you see in 18:21-29 that adds something more to the teaching of this chapter up to this point?
10. What does the Lord call the people to do in 18:30-32 and for what reasons?
11. What evidence for the truth found in Ezekiel 18:32 can be found elsewhere in the Bible? (Compare Luke 15:10; Romans 5:8, for example.)