

*All Souls Are Mine*

“Sin may open bright as the morning,  
but it will end dark as night”

- Illustrated in Judah: reveled in sin until . . .
  - Nebuchadnezzar: 606 ... 597 ... 586 BC
- Ezekiel’s mission: save the second group from complete apostasy
  - Jer.24: **good figs**. Ezekiel’s group: remnant — few saved (Lk.13:23)
  - Jer.24: **bad figs**. Third group: Zedekiah... large majority lost
- God controls nations; cares about individuals. Judah would fall...but some would take heed

# I. 1-4: Self-Justification Always Fails

Lying proverb: sufferings of this generation  
are due to sins of past generations

Conclusion: <sup>1</sup>we are innocent;  
<sup>2</sup>God is unjust (25) . . . <sup>3</sup>So why obey?

1. Wrong conclusions. Jer.31:29-30. Lam.5:7.  
Ezk.18:4.
2. God...visits iniquity...Ex.20:5
3. "His own sin" – Dt.24:16
  - Ro.10:1-3
  - Lk.10:29

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**II.** 5-20: Each Responsible for own Salvation

# Three illustrations of personal responsibility

1. 5-9... righteous

Hezekiah

2. 10-13... unrighteous

Manasseh

3. 14-18... righteous

Josiah

## Sour grapes proverb...

- Dt.30:19, the choice
- Josh.24:15, the choice

When you have to make a choice and don't make it, that is in itself a choice – Wm. James

- Ezk.18:18-19, God's judgment does not recognize fathers and sons, but righteous or wicked
- Ezk.18:20, repeats death penalty principle (v.4)
  - Ro.6:23, wages of sin

# THD is wrong

- 1 Jn.3:4, sin is something one does; it is not inherited
- Ezk.14:14; 18:20, righteousness not inherited

God holds us accountable for our sins,  
even if others influence us

- “Elders introduce mechanical music...  
therefore I am safe.” Mt.15:14
- “I worship with faithful church; it does good,  
therefore I am good.” 1 Co.16:15-18 . . .



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II. 5-20: Each Responsible for own Salvation

**III.** 21-22: Possibility of Changed Life

## Sinner is free to repent, 21-22

- When he repents, God judges his present state, not past
- Lk.15, prodigal – lost and found...
- 1 Co.6:9-11, *such were some of you...*
  - Repentance requires a break with the past
  - Ezk.18:21: *turns from all his sins...*
  - Student changes his ways...
    - Acts 2:38 . . . 8:21-22, a life of repentance
    - Calvinism: Holy Spirit must act on sinner...

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**IV. 23: God Desires Salvation of All**

# God loves His enemies – how much more His children

- God punishes for their (our) own good...as parents
- God will not break His law to tolerate sinners...
- God's compassion (23) – yet the wicked stubbornly dies in his sin

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**V. 24: Possibility of Apostasy**

# Righteousness of a lifetime – cancelled by sins of a year / day / moment

- 1 Co.9:27, But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified
- Ezk.18:26, When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies

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**VI.** 25-29: God's Way is Right

Each can choose for himself

God's law of individual  
responsibility is supremely fair

- The sinner dies for his own sins
- The righteous man is blessed for his own obedience
  - Ro.3:3-4, never assume the fault is God's
  - Gn.18:25, God always does right



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VI. 25-29: God's Way is Right

**VII.** 30: We Will Give Account For Our Life

## We are God's by right of creation (v.4)

- Builder of house has claim on it
- 2 Co.5:10
- God is not only fair, but merciful – Jn.3:16

- “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?” – Ezk.18:31
  - We can start over
  - We cannot blame our sin on others
- “But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge” – Jer.31:30