

## Ezekiel 18

### It's Not My Fault. It's Your Fault

This chapter addresses the idea of generational curses. We have an epidemic of perpetual broken families, compounded with a victimization mind set. Do we choose to repeat the sins of our fathers; or is it just in our DNA? Is it because of our environment and popular culture? What part of the cause is the chicken, and what is the egg? Am I an alcoholic merely because my family has that tendency? Part of the Christian faith is *being able to man up* and take ownership of our sins and our failures; without assigning blame elsewhere. We need to assess our faults and take them to the LORD for repair.

TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome) is a perfect example. TDS is even labeled as a mental illness, instead of misplaced hatred, in states like Minnesota. It is defined as acute paranoia and misplaced blame. It is compounded with a false characterization of anything otherwise considered as good associated with President Trump. It is interesting that President George Bush, Jr. also had the same phenomenon from his detractors. You may recall that Bush was considered an idiot until everything began to work out for him; which caused him to be re-characterized as an *evil genius*. God has showed each person what they are expected to do. Envy and competition should not play into it.

*And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them.' (Ezekiel 20)*

*Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. (2 Corinthians 10)*

We have an idea of how our life should be. Are our expectations not adding up? Do we sometimes feel like we don't love our life? Are we are living someone else's life? Looking to others for our own happiness (or missing happiness) is a mistake. Our sense of self-identity can even include an expected life setting. That is usually different than how God sees us. That may be one reason that we will be re-named when we get to heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.*” ’ (Revelation 2)

We often allow other people to influence or determine our choices. We may be trying to cater to their expectations. Social pressure is deceiving—we all become prey without noticing it. Before we realize we have lost control of our lives, we end up envying how other people live. This is the epitome of pop culture. We can only see the *greener grass*—ours is never good enough. Instead of doing our homework and doing our own research (prayerfully), we attach ourselves to a passing image. To regain passion and purpose, you must recover God’s plan for our lives; and take ownership of your choices.

**Read Ezekiel 18:1-9:** God holds each man accountable. Unfortunately, we sometimes try to *play God* in our circles of influence. We try to add to the forces that are sympathetic to our causes.

There are people in our country who do not want God’s authority over them. So, they get behind other anarchistic choices. They will make ridiculous choices in order to block any establishment of added *right verses wrong* policies. So much so, that we have congressmen fighting to free murdering gang members from foreign countries. We have senators trying to stop the reduction of government waste. All merely because these things directly or indirectly influence their plans.

It is not uncommon for children to hold grudges against their parents. Teenagers can be so motivated to *make their own way* in this world, that they ascribe anything undesirable to their parent's shortcomings. In fact, a teenager will go so far as to make an obviously bad choice, merely to create a separation from their parent’s position. Their feelings have been hurt by their parents, and they refuse to give them the satisfaction of sharing their world views.

Family dynamics can become so dysfunctional. Once it becomes all about feelings it can go from bad to worse. Some parents can do damage in the way they help their kids. Some children are especially inclined to overreact when it comes to taking criticism. I am especially sensitive to anything that I have literally invested my soul and my energy into. I see it as an extension of myself image. I thought that I had a normal sensitivity to my dad’s harsh criticisms as I worked with him

on the ranch. Later on in life I became incensed when I was left holding the bag for more senior Superintendents on various jobs...for things I warned them against. Later still, I had deep issues with a major company executive who I did not respect; but expected me to kiss his boots. That clash resulted in my working elsewhere. The issue may not have merely been that I was the recipient of undue criticism. The issue was God continuing to deal with the exaggerated emotional response on my part. My hatred for their improprieties was magnified and multiplied beyond the issue. I was carrying poison and seeing red. It tainted everything they did in my eyes. Like TDS it caused me to ascribe motivations to their actions. God has been teaching me that part of Christian maturity is to let God be my advocate; and to not work so hard to set the record straight. It all stems from not wanting something to be my fault.

If nothing can be our fault; we could potentially assign blame to any bystander. All I can do is mischaracterize my critics. This chapter is not saying that we cannot find an excuse to point out how others have contributed to our hardships. It's saying that God has given me a way out of my messes (both self-imposed or things placed upon me).

God is telling his people that they just have to stop saying that their parents are the reason they are suffering. Similarly, American slavery has contributed to the inner city plights of black teenagers; but there is still an open door to effect changes in our own generation. They do not have to continue to be a victim many generations later. Children who have been abused can certainly say that their parents have affected their world view; but they can wake up and smell the coffee; and set out in a better direction.

Mankind has always been adept at the blame game.

*Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." (Genesis 3)*

We all live under common grace; but we cannot ride on anyone's coattails.

*Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 14)*

This chapter tells us that we are only responsible for what we have done. The Woke ideology is completely unbiblical.

*16 “Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.  
(Deuteronomy 24)*

There was a popular saying about the burdens the prior generations had left on the doorstep of their descendant's. God is debunking it and clarifying how this works. After all King Manasseh's prior idolatry madness played a big part in the subsequent Babylonian invasion. Regardless, idolatry was still running rampant.

*30 But everyone shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. (Jeremiah 31)*

We can never be satisfied if we have set imaginary goals. Is our view of *being blessed* the same as God's view?

- Man's view of being favored:
  - Materialism
  - Physical wealth
  - Personal happiness
  - External factors
- God's view:
  - Spiritual wellbeing: (prayer, scriptural meditation, life of love)
  - Spiritual peace: getting to a place where our peace is not based on our circumstances.

### **Read Ezekiel 18:10-13:**

What if a solid Christian family raises a child who goes off of the rails? It is not a sin attributed to the parents. The child will bear the burden of their sin alone. In the millennial age it will be worse. Families will be loving and humble, but there will no longer be tolerance for evil.

*It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.’ And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies. (Zechariah 13)*

### **Read Ezekiel 18:14-23:**

Whoever is the product of a wrecked home of sin bears no burden from their parents' sins. We should want to leave evil and cleave to what is good. That is kind of built into us.

*“Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him.” (Isaiah 51)*

**Read Ezekiel 18:24-26:**

We can start out as solid citizens, and then turn south very badly. I had a neighbor who was into metaphysics and lived a homosexual lifestyle. I talked to her about God. She told me that she had gotten *saved* many times. She was raised in the south. She said that she walked down the *sawdust trail* for an altar call more than once. That is not salvation. Salvation is not an event. It is handing over the keys to God; and getting serious about following him. There are numerous people who were raised in Christianity, but went another direction (Joseph Stalin, Charles Darwin, etc.). We are not talking about losing your salvation. We are talking about becoming a public menace.

**Read Ezekiel 18:29-32:**

If we cannot blame our parents; then who do we blame...God? It is not fair or right to blame God. Job was a faithful example of a believer who reached a place of frustration and pain where he began to blame God.

*He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness. <sup>19</sup> If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court? <sup>20</sup> Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse. <sup>21</sup> “I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; despise my life. <sup>22</sup> It is all one thing; Therefore I say, ‘He destroys the blameless and the wicked.’ <sup>23</sup> If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. <sup>24</sup> The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be? (Job 9)*

God had to straighten out Job’s thinking. He began by taking Job’s thoughts off of his own tiny situation. God expanded Job’s view of all of the grace and grandeur under his nose and over his head being taken for granted. God points out that Job is living off of God’s magnificent and considerate creation.

*Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: <sup>2</sup> “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup> Now prepare yourself like a man;*

*I will question you, and you shall answer Me. <sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup> When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup> “Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; <sup>9</sup> When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; <sup>10</sup> When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; <sup>11</sup> When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’ <sup>12</sup> “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place, <sup>13</sup> That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? <sup>14</sup> It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. <sup>15</sup> From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is broken. <sup>16</sup> “Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? <sup>17</sup> Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? <sup>18</sup> Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. <sup>19</sup> “Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, <sup>20</sup> That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home? <sup>21</sup> Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great? <sup>22</sup> “Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail, <sup>23</sup> Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war? <sup>24</sup> By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered over the earth? <sup>25</sup> “Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt, <sup>26</sup> To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man; <sup>27</sup> To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? <sup>28</sup> Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? <sup>29</sup> From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth? <sup>30</sup> The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen. <sup>31</sup> “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? <sup>32</sup> Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? <sup>33</sup> Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth? <sup>34</sup> “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you? <sup>35</sup> Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, ‘Here we are!’? <sup>36</sup> Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? <sup>37</sup> Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, <sup>38</sup> When the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together? <sup>39</sup> “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, <sup>40</sup> When they crouch in their dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? <sup>41</sup> Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food? (ob 38)*