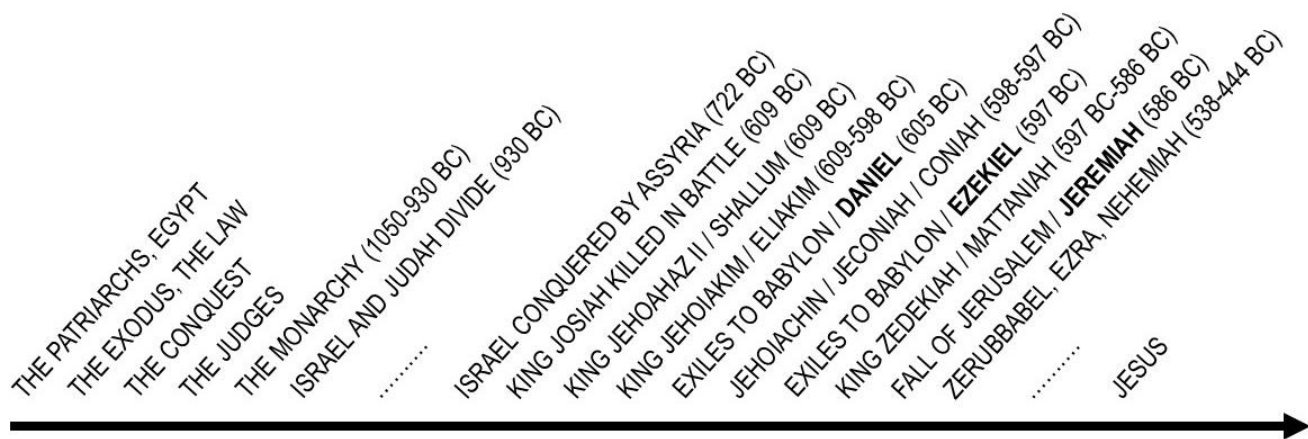




## EZEKIEL 18:1-32

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? <sup>3</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. ... <sup>5</sup> "If a man is righteous and does what is just and right — <sup>6</sup> if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife or approach a woman in her time of menstrual impurity, <sup>7</sup> does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, <sup>8</sup> does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice, executes true justice between man and man, <sup>9</sup> walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully — he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord GOD. ...

... <sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ... <sup>30</sup> "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live." (Ezekiel 18:1–32)



## Introduction

- If you want to make sense of Ezekiel 18, you need to distinguish between the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 24:16 ... Numbers 13, Joshua 7).
- In the final days of Jerusalem, the Jews were \_\_\_\_\_ previous generations for the present suffering in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 18:2 ... Jeremiah 31:29, Lamentations 5:7). Even worse, they were accusing God of acting \_\_\_\_\_ (Ezekiel 18:25).

## The Big Ideas of Ezekiel 18:1-31

- Human beings are entirely \_\_\_\_\_ for their sin, and God is perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ in judging sinners.

## Ezekiel 18:1-31

- "The soul who \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_." (18:1-4, 18:20)
  - The Illustration of \_\_\_\_\_ (18:5-20)
  - The Illustration of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (18:21-29)
- The Lord mercifully offers \_\_\_\_\_ to those who deserve \_\_\_\_\_ (18:30-32).

## Application

- The difficult question is not, "Why do \_\_\_\_\_ things happen to \_\_\_\_\_ people?" The difficult question is, "Why do \_\_\_\_\_ things happen to \_\_\_\_\_ people?"
- Only the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus on the cross resolves the tension of God's just \_\_\_\_\_ toward sinners and God's gracious \_\_\_\_\_ for sinners.