

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

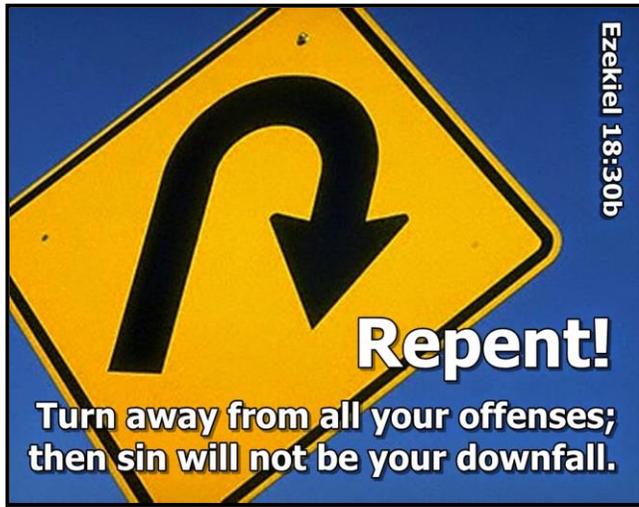
THEME: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

UNIT III – ADVOCATING GOD’S RIGHTS THE BIBLE WAY

“EZEKIEL CALLS FOR GOD’S PEOPLE TO FORSAKE THE FOOLISH AND LIVE”

Sunday School Lesson No. XI - August 16, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Ezekiel 18:1-32

Required Reading: Proverbs 21:2-15; Ezekiel 18; Romans 3

Motto Text: Ezekiel 18:32, *“For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”*

Reliable Resources: Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); H. A. Ironside’s Commentary on Ezekiel; John MacArthur Study Bible; Precepts for Living (UMI); The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Bible; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; David Jeremiah Study Bible; Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Logos Bible Software

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, the lesson before us reveals a great revelation of the sovereign grace of God towards the repentant sinner! This lesson shows us that God’s government calls for just rebuke to those who stand against the principles of His word. Yet, through an act of redemption through God’s Son Jesus Christ, one can receive forgiveness and hope, even though they are under the just recompense of the Almighty! I believe Romans 3:24-26 (NLT) probably explains this better than I can: *“Yet now God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times. And he is entirely fair and just in the present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus.”*

And so beloved, we turn to the prophet Ezekiel, who God raised from the concentration camps of Babylon to bring a word of clarity and hope to Judah’s captives. Ezekiel was a priestly prophet like Jeremiah who did not receive his prophetic calling until he was in captivity. He was an aristocrat of great means before the captivity. Taken away into captivity probably with the second wave under Jehoiachin, he was on the Chebar Canal outside of Babylon for several years when Jehovah used an unusual vision to call him into prophetic service. (Read Chapter 1). According to Kyle Yates, Ezekiel was to destroy the false hopes of God’s captives, of an early release from captivity. He simply complied with the teachings of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 28 – 29). He also was to help Israel interpret the purpose of the exile, and restore themselves to a walk of faith and worship with Jehovah! You might say that Ezekiel became Jehovah’s watchman on the wall to declare His grace in the midst of His government. Time would not allow, but Ezekiel was a colorful prophet who used many strange illustrations to gain the eyes and minds of God’s captives.

This week’s lesson focuses on the notion of God’s people feeling that their generation has been unfairly treated by Jehovah! They declare that they are suffering the retribution of God because of the sins of their ancestors, but God will make it abundantly clear through Ezekiel that He is more than fair, and exhibits amazing grace unto all who will faithfully acknowledge and follow Him!

Anticipated Power Points: Forsake the Foolish and Live...

- **Regardless of their Past. Ezekiel 18:1-20**
- **Real or Counterfeit, God Knows His People. Ezekiel 18:21-29**
- **Repentance will Render God’s Peace. Ezekiel 18:30-32**

LESSON OUTLINE

“Ezekiel Calls for God’s People to Forsake the Foolish and Live”

Forsake the Foolish and Live...

I. Regardless of their Past. Ezekiel 18:1-20

A. Judah’s accusation. vss. 1-2

God was punishing this generation for their fathers’ sins.

B. Jehovah’s answer. vss. 3-4

Every person is responsible for his own sins, and He judges everyone individually!

C. Jehovah’s examination of Israel’s ancestry. vss. 5-20

1. A righteous grandfather receives God’s favor for obedience. vss. 5-9

2. An unrighteous son receives God’s judgment for disobedience. vss. 10-13

3. A righteous grandson receives God’s favor for obedience. vss. 14-17

Ezekiel explains that Jehovah will judge every person according to his or her own testimony!

4. The accuracy of Jehovah makes no mistakes! “Every tub must stand on its own bottom.” But some say that God’s word contradicts itself because of Exodus 20:5 “...for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.” But there is no contradiction whatsoever. If a son hears the truth and receives it in his heart, God will not punish him for the sins of his father. (Read Exodus 20:6). Case in point: King Hezekiah was a godly king. His son King Manasseh was a wicked King, but God blessed his son Josiah, an excellent king of righteousness. God judged each man individually and his kingdoms accordingly. (Read II Kings 18 – 23).

Forsake the Foolish and Live...

II. Real or Counterfeit, God Knows His People. Ezekiel 18:21-29

In these verses Ezekiel further reiterates that as one thinks or practices, God will deal with him or her accordingly. He remains constant and unchangeable! Truly, beloved, God examines a person’s life individually, and with Godly sorrow, there is hope.

A. The unjust who repents. vss. 21-23

God will show them forgiveness without measure. (Read Micah 7:18-19)

B. The so-called righteous who turn to sin. vs. 24

God is patient to see the reality of a commitment. Not everyone who calls His name is sincere and they will be found guilty and without hope. (Read I John 2:19)

C. The Almighty is truly unchangeable! vss. 25-29

Men vacillate between opinions and lifestyles, but the Lord’s grace and government never changes. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Forsake the Foolish and Live...

III. Repentance will Render God’s Peace. Ezekiel 18:30-32

According to MacArthur, “The conclusion is that the just God must judge each person for his own life. But He invites repentance, so that hope may replace ruin (33:10-11). In 18:31 the key to eternal life and triumph over death is conversion. This involves repentance from sin (vv. 30-31a) and receiving the new heart which God gives with a new spirit, wrought by the Holy Spirit (Jer. 31:34). *‘I have no pleasure.’* The death of His saints is precious to God (Ps. 116:15). By contrast, He has no such pleasure when a person dies without repentance. While God is sovereign in salvation, man is responsible for his own sin.”

CLOSING:

Jesus makes this week’s lesson very clear in Luke 9:23 (NKJV), “...If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

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TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

August 23, 2015

Zechariah 7:8-14



The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!

The 2015 City-Wide Revival is August 18-20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. nightly to be held this year at the New Hope Baptist Church, 1807 LaSalle Street in New Orleans. Rev. Jamaal Weathersby is the Pastor. The revivalist is Rev. F. D. Sampson, Sr. of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Houston, TX. ALL ARE INVITED!