

God Takes No Pleasure In Death

October 15, 2017 – Ezekiel 18:1-4; 27, 32

“The Word of the Lord came to me: What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’ (Our Father’s sinned and the children have to suffer the consequences.) As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For every living soul belongs to Me, the father as well as the son – both alike belong to Me. The soul who sins is the one who will die..... But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”

THAT IS NOT FAIR!!!

Do you remember hearing that on the play-ground as a child? Have you ever heard that at work? Have you ever said those words? “That is not fair!!!” What causes someone to say those words? When someone else does something wrong, and you get blamed!!!!

THAT IS NOT FAIR!!!

Adam and Eve Ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden, why should I have to die for it?

- Why should I have to suffer the consequences of sin?
- Why should I have to pull the weeds?
- Why should I get sick and injured for the sin of Adam and Eve???

In this text at the time of Ezekiel, the children of Israel were making that statement and asking that question.

THAT IS NOT FAIR!!!

Why do we have to suffer for the sins of our Fathers?

That is what is meant by this Proverb:

Vs. 2b – “The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?”

The children of Israel in the region of Judah were taken into slavery by the Babylonians, and they felt that they were being treated wrongly by God.

Yet elsewhere in Ezekiel we are told that the children of Israel were committing the following:

Ez. 13:1 – The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel and said, Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: Hear the Word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and their visions are false.” (Ez. 13:1-7)

Ez. 16:1 – The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel and said, Confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices and say, this is what the Sovereign Lord says to Jerusalem: ...vs. 20 – You took your sons and daughters whom you bore to Me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. ... You slaughtered My children and sacrificed them to the idols.” (Ez. 16) 20-21)

And this is only a portion of the list. To learn more one needs to read through the book of Ezekiel. Despite the detestable practices of Israel, the Lord God still says:

Vs. 32 – For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

And so God did something that is NOT FAIR:

We are told what God did through the prophet Isaiah:

Isa. 53:2-7 – He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.”

This of course is the Lord Jesus.

You may think that it was not fair that we suffer for the sin of Adam and Eve, but is it fair that God’s Son Jesus, suffered for your sin and mine and the sin of the World?

II Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, but everyone to come to repentance.”

God wants you in Heaven so badly that He gave His ONE and Only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for your sin and for the sin of the World so that you and I and all believers can live forever in heaven where there is no more sin, or death or sorrow or pain. AMEN