

# A False Proverb Refuted

Ezek. 18:1-3

## Introduction:

- A. A convenient proverb.
  - 1. Used to blame ungodliness on parents.
  - 2. Used to reject personal responsibility for sin and its correction.
- B. A false proverb.
  - 1. It was not to be used in Israel under Old Covenant. (v. 3)
  - 2. It is not to be used today under the New Covenant. (Jer. 31:28-34).
- C. A refuted proverb: Ezekiel makes three *points* about sin and spiritual death to refute the proverb.

## Discussion:

### **I. Cannot Blame Our Sin and Death on Our Parents.**

- A. Parents do have responsibility to properly train children. (Deut. 6:7; Eph. 4:6).
  - 1. Children do not generally depart from good training. (Prov. 22:6)
    - a. A proverb is a maxim - a concise statement of general truth.
    - b. A proverb may have its exceptions. (cf. Prov. 10:27; 21:17).
  - 2. Children can resist and reject training. Else "once saved always saved".
- B. Parents and children are each responsible for their sins. (v. 4, 19,20).
  - 1. A righteous parent lives, while his unrighteous child dies. (vs. 5-13).
  - 2. A righteous child lives, while his unrighteous parent dies. (vs. 14-18).

### **II. Cannot Blame Our Sin and Death on Our past.**

- A. A wicked past will not condemn a man who is presently righteous. (vs. 21-23).
  - 1. If one repents (turned from) sins, his past need not burden him.
  - 2. If one repents and now lives right, his past cannot condemn him.
- B. A righteous past will not save a man who is presently wicked. (vs. 24).
  - 1. If have turned to sin, a past life time of righteousness will not save one.
  - 2. If have turned to error, past years of teaching truth will not count.

### **III. Cannot Blame Our Sin and Death on Our God.**

- A. Israel said, "The way of the Lord is not fair". (v. 25, 29).
  - 1. Not fair that they should die, after all it was the father's fault!
  - 2. Not think it fair that their past righteousness did not count!
- B. God said, "Is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair?"
  - 1. It is not fair for the son to bear guilt of father, and vise versa.
  - 2. It is not fair punish a man for past, if has repented and is right now.
  - 3. It is not fair reward a rebel for his past, if he turns away from God.
- C. God is fair in giving an opportunity for one to turn and live. (vs. 30-32).

## Conclusion:

- A. Each one must give an account for himself before God. (2 Cor. 5:10).
- B. No one inherits guilt from his parents, he is only responsibility for own guilt.
- C. Each one can turn from sin to God and be saved. (Acts 2:38).
- D. No one can depend on his past or his parents to save him.