

**Friday, November 8**

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**Ezekiel 18:1 - 19:14**

**18** 1 Then another message came to me from the LORD : 2 “Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste’? 3 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel. 4 For all people are mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is my rule: The person who sins is the one who will die. 5 “Suppose a certain man is righteous and does what is just and right. 6 He does not feast in the mountains before Israel’s idols or worship them. He does not commit adultery or have intercourse with a woman during her menstrual period. 7 He is a merciful creditor, not keeping the items given as security by poor debtors. He does not rob the poor but instead gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy. 8 He grants loans without interest, stays away from injustice, is honest and fair when judging others, 9 and faithfully obeys my decrees and regulations. Anyone who does these things is just and will surely live, says the Sovereign LORD . 10 “But suppose that man has a son who grows up to be a robber or murderer and refuses to do what is right. 11 And that son does all the evil things his father would never do—he worships idols on the mountains, commits adultery, 12 oppresses the poor and helpless, steals from debtors by refusing to let them redeem their security, worships idols, commits detestable sins, 13 and lends money at excessive interest. Should such a sinful person live? No! He must die and must take full blame. 14 “But suppose that sinful son, in turn, has a son who sees his father’s wickedness and decides against that kind of life. 15 This son refuses to worship idols on the mountains and does not commit adultery. 16 He does not exploit the poor, but instead is fair to debtors and does not rob them. He gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy. 17 He helps the poor, does not lend money at interest, and obeys all my regulations and decrees. Such a person will not die because of his father’s sins; he will surely live. 18 But the father will die for his many sins—for being cruel, robbing people, and doing what was clearly wrong among his people. 19 “What?” you ask. ‘Doesn’t the child pay for the parent’s sins?’ No! For if the child does what is just and right and keeps my decrees, that child will surely live. 20 The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness. 21 But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my decrees and do what is just

and right, they will surely live and not die. **22** All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done. **23** “Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD . Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. **24** However, if righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things and act like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their righteous acts will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins. **25** “Yet you say, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one not doing what’s right, or is it you? **26** When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds. **27** And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. **28** They will live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die. **29** And yet the people of Israel keep saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ O people of Israel, it is you who are not doing what’s right, not I. **30** “Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD . Repent, and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! **31** Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? **32** I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD . Turn back and live!

**19** **1** “Sing this funeral song for the princes of Israel: **2** “What is your mother? A lioness among lions! She lay down among the young lions and reared her cubs. **3** She raised one of her cubs to become a strong young lion. He learned to hunt and devour prey, and he became a man-eater. **4** Then the nations heard about him, and he was trapped in their pit. They led him away with hooks to the land of Egypt. **5** “When the lioness saw that her hopes for him were gone, she took another of her cubs and taught him to be a strong young lion. **6** He prowled among the other lions and stood out among them in his strength. He learned to hunt and devour prey, and he, too, became a man-eater. **7** He demolished fortresses and destroyed their towns and cities. Their farms were desolated, and their crops were destroyed. The land and its people trembled in fear when they heard him roar. **8** Then the armies of the nations attacked him, surrounding him from every direction. They threw a net over him and captured him in their pit. **9** With hooks, they dragged him into a cage and brought him before the king of Babylon. They held him in captivity, so his voice could never again be heard on the mountains of Israel. **10** “Your mother was like a vine planted by the water’s edge. It had lush, green foliage because of the abundant water. **11** Its branches became strong— strong enough to be a ruler’s scepter. It grew very tall, towering above all others. It stood out because of its height and its many lush branches. **12** But the vine was uprooted in fury and thrown down to the ground. The desert wind dried up its fruit and tore off its strong branches, so that it withered and was destroyed by fire. **13** Now the vine

is transplanted to the wilderness, where the ground is hard and dry. **14** A fire has burst out from its branches and devoured its fruit. Its remaining limbs are not strong enough to be a ruler's scepter. "This is a funeral song, and it will be used in a funeral."

### **Hebrews 9:1 - 10**

**9 1** That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. **2** There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. **3** Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. **4** In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. **5** Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now. **6** When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. **7** But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. **8** By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use. **9** This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. **10** For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

### **Psalm 106:32 - 48**

**106 32** At Meribah, too, they angered the LORD, causing Moses serious trouble. **33** They made Moses angry, and he spoke foolishly. **34** Israel failed to destroy the nations in the land, as the LORD had commanded them. **35** Instead, they mingled among the pagans and adopted their evil customs. **36** They worshiped their idols, which led to their downfall. **37** They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons. **38** They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters. By sacrificing them to the idols of Canaan, they polluted the land

with murder. **39** They defiled themselves by their evil deeds, and their love of idols was adultery in the LORD's sight. **40** That is why the LORD's anger burned against his people, and he abhorred his own special possession. **41** He handed them over to pagan nations, and they were ruled by those who hated them. **42** Their enemies crushed them and brought them under their cruel power. **43** Again and again he rescued them, but they chose to rebel against him, and they were finally destroyed by their sin. **44** Even so, he pitied them in their distress and listened to their cries. **45** He remembered his covenant with them and relented because of his unfailing love. **46** He even caused their captors to treat them with kindness. **47** Save us, O LORD our God! Gather us back from among the nations, so we can thank your holy name and rejoice and praise you. **48** Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives from everlasting to everlasting! Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

### **Proverbs 27:10**

**27 10** Never abandon a friend—either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away.