

The word of YHWH came to me:

Ezekiel 18:1-20 Outline

Popular Proverb “The Fathers Have Eaten Sour Grapes, & Children's Teeth Are Set on Edge”

Oath Formula – This Proverb Shall No More Be Used by You in Israel

If a man is righteous and does what is just and right (18:5-9)

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...

does not oppress anyone

restores to the debtor his pledge

commits no robbery

gives his bread to the hungry

covers the ill-clad with a garment

does not lend at interest

takes no profit...

(walks in my statutes and keeps my rules—he is righteous, he shall surely live)

Declares the Lord YHWH

If he fathers a son who is violent, a shedder of blood, who does any of these things (18:10-13)

who even eats upon the mountains

defiles his neighbor's wife

oppresses the poor and needy

**commits robbery**

does not restore the pledge

lifts up his eyes to the idols, commits abomination

*lends at interest*

*takes profit*

(He shall not live, He has done all these abominations, he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon himself)

Now suppose this man fathers a son who sees all the sins that his father has done; he sees, and does not do likewise: (18:14-17)

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

does not oppress anyone

exact no pledge

commits no robbery

gives bread to the hungry

covers the ill-clad with a garment

takes no interest

takes no profit

(obeys my rules and walks in my statutes, he shall not die for his father's iniquity; he shall surely live)

As for his father, because he *practiced extortion*, **robbed his brother**, and did what is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity (18:18)

When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. ...

### Ezekiel 18:21-32 Outline

- A.(18:21-22) But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right,  
he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live.
- D. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked? (declares the Lord YHWH) (18:23)  
And not rather that he should turn from his way and live?
- B. (18:24) But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live?  
None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.
- C. 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? (18:25)
- B. (18:26) 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.
- A. (18:27-28) When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right,  
he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.
- C. 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? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways (declares the Lord YHWH). (18:29-31)  
Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!
- D. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone (declares the Lord YHWH) (18:32)  
So turn and live!

### Ezekiel 19 Outline

And you, take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, and say: (19:1)

What was your mother? A lioness! (19:2-9)

First cub – he became a young lion, learned to catch prey, devoured men

The nations heard about him

he was caught in their pit, brought him with hooks to Egypt

Second cub – he became a young lion, learned to catch prey, devoured men...

The nations set against him

he was taken in their pit, with hooks they brought him to Babylon

Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard (19:10-14)

Planted by the water, fruitful and full of branches – abundant water

Its strong stems became ruler's scepters

It towered aloft among the thick boughs; see in height

Vine plucked up and cast down to the ground

Now planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty land

Fire consumed its fruit, there remains no strong stem, no ruler's scepter

This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation (19:14e).

Lines in the first half of the lament often follow the 3:2 Quina lament rhythm in Hebrew. The lion is an appropriate image for the king from Judah. You will remember from Kings that one King of Judah had been carried off by Pharaoh and another king, his brother, had been carried off by the King of Babylon. The vineyard is a common reference in Scripture to the whole of Israel. The death of this vine is described in Greenberg's commentary as overkill to show the wrath with which it is done. The vine reminds us of chapter 17.

### Ezekiel 20 Outline

Introduction: timing (7<sup>th</sup> year, 5<sup>th</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day) and audience (certain elders), “and the word of YHWH came to me: son of man...thus says the Lord YHWH” (20:1-3)

Is it to inquire of me that you have come?

Oath formula – I will not be inquired of by you!

Let them know the abominations of their fathers (20:4-26)

I swore to the offspring of the house of Jacob...I would bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands.

Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt, I am YHWH your God!

But they rebelled against me and would not listen to me (none of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt)

Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

I gave them my statutes and made known my rules, by which if a person does them, he shall live, and I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign,

that they may know that I am YHWH who sanctifies them.

But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness (they did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned)

Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them.

But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

{Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land...a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands (because they rejected my rules and did not walk in my statutes, and profaned my Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols)}

Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor defile yourselves with their idols; I am YHWH your God}

Walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules, and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign that you may know that I am YHWH your God

But the children rebelled against me (they did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; they profaned my Sabbaths)

Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness.

But...I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had

brought them out.

{Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the lands (because they had not obeyed my rules but rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths and their eyes were set on their father's idols)}

I gave them statutes that were NOT good and rules by which they could not have life...

I did it that they might know that I am YHWH!

Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, Thus says the Lord YHWH: (20:27-29)

In this also your fathers blasphemed me, by dealing treacherously with me.

For when I brought them into the land that I swore to give them

Then whenever they saw any high hill or any leafy tree, there they offered sacrifices...

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord YHWH:" ... (20:30-38)

Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and go whoring after their detestable things?

And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel?

Oath formula – I will not be inquired of by you!

I will enter into judgment with you face to face...then you will know that I am YHWH.

As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord YHWH: (20:39-44)

(he tells them to go serve their idols if they will not listen to Him but He will manifest His holiness among you in the sight of the nations)

note pattern of the key phrases:

declares the Lord YHWH...

and you shall know that I am YHWH...

and you shall know that I am YHWH...

declares the Lord YHWH!

And the word of YHWH came to me: Son of man... (20:45-48)

(prophecy about fire devouring all the trees and how all flesh shall see that He YHWH had kindled it)

Conclusion: answering the introduction's comments about timing and audience Ezekiel says, "Ah, Lord YHWH! They are saying of me, 'Is he not a maker of parables?'" (20:49)