**A False Proverb Refuted**

**Ezek. 18:1-3**

**Introduction:**

 A. A convenient proverb. (Defined: a general truth or piece of advice)

 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. 6:4).

 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. They thought: Not fair that they should die, after all it was the father's fault!**

 **2. They did 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 his father, and vise-versa.

 2. It is not fair to punish a man for the past, if has repented and is living righteously 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:**

 **I. Each one must give an account for himself before God. (2 Cor. 5:10).**

 **II. No one inherits guilt from their parents, every person is only responsibility for their own guilt.**

 **III. Each one can turn from sin to God, and be saved (Acts 2:38).**

 **IV. No one can depend on his past, or his parents to save him.**