

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Ezekiel 18:1-13, 31-32

Sunday August 16, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How do we know that Ezekiel was a true prophet of God?

His book is in the Bible. God fulfilled the predictions that He told Ezekiel to proclaim. He taught according to the Law of God: consistent with the Scriptures as they were up to his time. Can you think of other reasons?

2. What was the proverb that Ezekiel quoted? Why did some people quote that proverb?

From Ezekiel 18:2—“The parents eat sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge.” Some people quoted the proverb as a false argument that God was not just or fair because God punished the children of the parents who sinned. They would not admit that they had sinned and deserved God’s punishment. God told the people to stop quoting this proverb, because He would punish the children for their own sins and not the sins of others or their parents. God’s punishment would be just.

3. What kind of death does the one who sins die?

The one who sins suffers spiritual death, which includes separation from God and a distorted personhood. They will be separated from God and remain distorted forever if they do not repent and return to God. Jesus Christ described hell in some detail, and He came to save people from their sins, from spiritual death, and from hell.

4. How did Ezekiel describe or define a righteous person?

A righteous person does what is just and right. He worships the true God only, the LORD. He does not harm others or treat them unjustly. He helps those in need. He follows God’s decrees and faithfully keeps God’s laws.

5. Give an example from your study of the Book of Ezekiel of a sin of commission and a sin of omission.

A sin of commission: robbery or murder, etc. A sin of omission: omits giving food to the hungry or clothing to the naked.

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