

"Sour Grapes"  
Ezekiel 18

After a prolonged discussion on the root of the social ills affecting society, the public was asked to write in to a local newspaper what they thought was the reason. Famous Catholic satirist, G. K. Chesterton wrote succinctly, "Dear Sirs, I am. Sincerely, G. K. Chesterton. He accurately summed up the reason for all that is wicked and wrong with society: \_\_\_\_\_ .

Apparently, the exiles were not taking personal responsibility for all the tragic events taking place, but rather, blaming them on past generations.

vv. 1-2 Q. What question was posed to Ezekiel from the Lord?

A. What do the people mean by quoting this \_\_\_\_\_:

"The \_\_\_\_\_ eat sour grapes

And the \_\_\_\_\_ teeth are set on edge?"

Note: God is not asking for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the proverb but the \_\_\_\_\_ of using the proverb, i.e. "why are they saying this to each other?"

v. 3 Q. What did God declare?

A.

v. 4a Q. What truth is presented here?

A.

v. 4b Q. What truth is presented here?

A.

Q. What is another way of saying this?

A.

**Test cases from God:**

vv. 5-9a Q. What type of man is being addressed?

A.

v. 9b Q. What is the end result?

A.

vv. 10-13a Q. What type of man is being addressed?

A.

v. 13b Q. What is the end result?

A.

vv. 14-17a Q. Who is being addressed next?

A.

v. 17b Q. What is the verdict?

A.

v. 18 Q. In contrast, what is the judgment upon his father?

A.

v. 19 Q. What was the key question the exiles were asking?

A.

Note: They were trying to blame the crisis on the \_\_\_\_\_  
generations while not taking \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves.

v. 20a Q. What is the key truth presented again?

A.

v. 20b Q. What is the secondary truth?

A.

v. 20c. Q. What is the main principle?

A.

vv. 21-22 Q. Describe the new circumstances?

A.

v. 23 Q. What does this verse reveal about God's heart?

A.

Q. How does the Apostle Peter use this in his teaching on the end of days – 2 Peter 3:8-9.

A.

v. 24 Q. What is the next circumstance?

A.

Q. How does John help us to understand this principle? 1 John 3:4-10

A. "Righteous" is merely a \_\_\_\_\_ of someone who does right in the sight of God, but it does not mean that he has fully committed himself to God. "\_\_\_\_\_" or "\_\_\_\_\_" is the descriptive of both the righteous and the wicked.

v. 25a Q. What were the people saying in response to this?

A.

v. 25bc Q. How did God respond?

1.

2.

vv. 26-28 Q. What circumstances are reviewed with results?

A. \_\_\_\_\_. Righteous to wicked and wicked to righteous. One will die even though he started out right. The other will live although he started out wicked.

v. 29 Q. This forms the *inclusio* with verse 25. What again is repeated?

A. They accuse God of not being \_\_\_\_\_ and he throws it back at them and states that they are the ones not acting \_\_\_\_\_ (toward Him).

v. 30 Q. List each declarative in this verse.

A.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

v. 31 Q. What is the desire of God for His people?

A.

1.

2.

3.

4.

v. 31a Q. What is the heart of God? (Cp. v. 23)

A.

v. 31b. Q. What is the final exhortation?

A.

Q. Perhaps the exiles were thinking of Exodus 20:5-6 when quoting the proverb. What is wrong with this? What is this verse actually teaching?

A.

Q. What was the overarching exposé of the exiles?

A.

Q. How does the saying, "It doesn't matter how you start, but how you finish" fit into this discussion?

A.

Q. Post-cross – How are we better able to understand, "Get a new heart and a new spirit"?

A.

Q. How would the exiles apply this pre-cross?

A.