

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

1. The word of the Lord came unto me again disturbing my meditations and causing me to twitch and open my eyes, saying,
2. Oi! What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge, and the sheep are bleating with foul wind and likewise the kine, and there is no good air in the land. Especially in thy chamber.
3. As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel, for the green grass shall be dried and the herbs therein made plentiful. And the grapes shall be picked when ripe and pressed into fine wines.
4. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. And the people shall cry, Our souls!

(HERE THE COMPILERS OF THE LECTIONARY, FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, HAVE OMITTED VERSES 5-24. CLERGY MAY DECIDE TO INCLUDE THEM AND EVEN, IF THE SPIRIT TAKES THEM, TO PREACH ON THEM. THIS IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR AN COFFEE BREAK.)

25. Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal, for there has been no measurement, nor has a spirit level been used. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? Hark ye to this state of inequality. Where is the line for bricklaying, that the rows may be straight?
26. When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die, even though the one sinned against doth forgive him ninety and nine times. Which is quite a lot really so he needn't have bothered.
27. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. And understand this, that this verse shall be used from generation unto generation when the people gathereth for prayer in the morning and in the evening. Yet many won't.
28. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Capiche? Are you getting the message, for I know not how many times I might say the same thing? Perhaps you should write it down and read it later as a reminder.
29. Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal? Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and doth not a little of what you fancy doeth good?
30. Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God, for I seeth that which is done in the dark and in secret. Oh yes. Even that late at night thing that nobody mentions. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin, and cause light to shine upon your doings.
31. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and your dealing whereby you have dealt doubly and with malice, and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? And why will your walls fall and your doors burst open? I know it's no fun but - hey! That's soteriology for you!

32. For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore in season turn, turn, turn yourselves, and live ye. For I am greatly pleased by your turning, and the rending of your garments that have seam.