

# Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles

## Introduction

"Results, no alibis" - a mantra espoused by many athletic coaches. Stated another way, "get the job done - no excuses." Jewish captives in Babylon, to their detriment, made excuses for their demise. They remembered only the sins of the past and ignored their present sins. They were quick to blame others, ignoring their own sins.

## Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Examine** behavior in which we blame others as the cause
- **Commit** to be responsible for our own behavior
- **Engage** in responsible behavior that finds favor with God

## Scripture

Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Psalm 147 (KJV)



## About Today's Lesson...

We sometimes use other people as scapegoats for our own misfortunes. We may blame bad parents for our drinking or drug problems. Or, we may even blame wicked ancestors for the current predicaments we find ourselves in. It is often easier to place blame on others for our inadequacies rather than look at ourselves in the mirror and question our own actions. But the Bible reminds us that God holds each one of us accountable for our own sins.

In today's lesson, the theme of "individual responsibility" rings loud and clear. As captives in Babylon, the Jews complained that their punishment was all a result of the past sins of their ancestors. But through the prophet Ezekiel, God reminds them in no uncertain terms that He is still sovereign and that He would judge everyone individually according to their own sins. In fact, their current sins were even worse than the sins of their ancestors.

Excuses rarely address real problems. The Jewish captives in today's lesson discovered this truth the hard way. We have much to learn from their mistakes.

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