

their own sins. This Ezekiel did in the next fragment of his preaching that remains to us.

1 The word of Jehovah,<sup>1</sup> came to me again, saying: 2 What do you mean by this proverb in the Land of Israel: "The fathers ate sour grapes and the teeth of the sons are set on edge"? 3 As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, Ye shall not use this proverb any more in Israel. 4 For all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so that of the son, is Mine. The soul that sins, it will die!

5 But if a man be just,<sup>2</sup> and do what is lawful and right; 6 if he have not eaten heathen sacrifices on the high places on the hills, nor lifted up his eyes in worship to the loathsome gods of the House of Israel, nor defiled his neighbour's wife, nor approached an unclean woman, 7 nor oppressed any one; if he have returned to the poor debtor the pledge given by him;<sup>3</sup> if he has taken goods from no one by fraud and injustice,<sup>4</sup> if he has given his bread to the hungry, and covered the naked with clothing; 8 if he has not lent on usury,<sup>5</sup> or taken interest;<sup>6</sup> if he has kept back his hand from iniquity, and has given honest judgment between man and man, in their disputes; 9 if he has walked in My laws and kept My commands, acting truly in all things—he is just; he will surely live, saith the Lord Jehovah!

10 If, however,<sup>7</sup> such a man beget a violent son, a shedder of blood; though he, the father, has done all that has been said, 11 yet if he, the son, has done none of all this, but has, instead, eaten idol-meats at the high places on the hills, defiled his neighbour's wife, 12 oppressed the poor and needy, taken away men's goods by fraud or injustice, lifted up his eyes in worship to the loathsome gods, committed abomination, 13 lent money on usury, and taken interest; shall he, then, live? He shall not live! He has committed all these abominations. To death with him! His blood lies on himself!

14 But if this ungodly son<sup>8</sup> beget a son who sees all his father's

<sup>1</sup> Ezek. xviii. 1-4.

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. xviii. 5-9.

<sup>3</sup> Exod. xxii. 25. Deut. xxiv. 12. Amos ii. 8. <sup>4</sup> Lev. vi. 4.

<sup>5</sup> Advances to men on their crops, etc., are meant.

<sup>6</sup> This was forbidden, at least between Israelites. Ezek. xviii. 18. Neh. v. 7, 10 ff. See also Exod. xxii. 24. Deut. xxiii. 20. Lev. xxv. 36. Prov. xxviii. 8. Ps. xv. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Ezek. xviii. 10-13.

<sup>8</sup> Ezek. xviii. 14-17.