



Life's Blame Game (Ezekiel 18)

Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming
18 August 2019

Burglar sues shop owner after he injured XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX while robbing the premises



CBS
NEWS

NEWS ▾

JEFFREY EPSTEIN ▾

SHOWS ▾

• LIVE ▾



Burglar sues Calif. homeowner, 90, who returned fire

BY BARRY LEIBOWITZ

OCTOBER 26, 2012 / 9:30 AM / CBS NEWS

Saturday 17 August 2019

Burglar sues shop owner after he injured XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX while robbing the premises



Rick Bodine
Enterprise High School
1am March 1, 1982
USD 260,000
+ 1,500/mth for life

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LIVE ▾



19yrs old girl had a flat tyre....

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EZEKIEL 1:1

EZEKIEL

The Living Creatures and the Glory of
the LORD

In the^a thirtieth year, in the fourth
month on the fifth day, while I
was among the exiles by the Kebar
rivers, the heavens were opened and I
saw the glory of God.
The appearance of the
glory of the LORD was like
the appearance of the
glory of the LORD which I
saw when I went out of
Egypt. The spirit came upon
me, and I heard a voice
saying to me, "Son of
man, stand upon your
feet." And he said to me,
"Behold, I am sending you
to the people of Israel, to
the nations, and to the
kings of the land, saying
to them, 'The LORD is
with you, O Israel, and
he has said, "I will be
with you, and I will be
your God."'

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JULY - DECEMBER 2019

READING THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Being with Jesus



Being
WITH
PASSION

Going
WITH
PURPOSE

Doing
WITH
POWER



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

NAME

0 BC

1 000 BC

United Kingdom

ELI Judged Israel
c. 1100-1060

SAMUEL Judged Israel
c. 1060-1020

Kings are listed
by the first year
of their reign.

KINGS OF ISRAEL (NORTHERN) →

 **KING SAUL**
Reigned
c. 1051-1011




 **KING DAVID**
Reigned
c. 1011-971

 **KING SOLOMON**
Reigned
c. 971-931



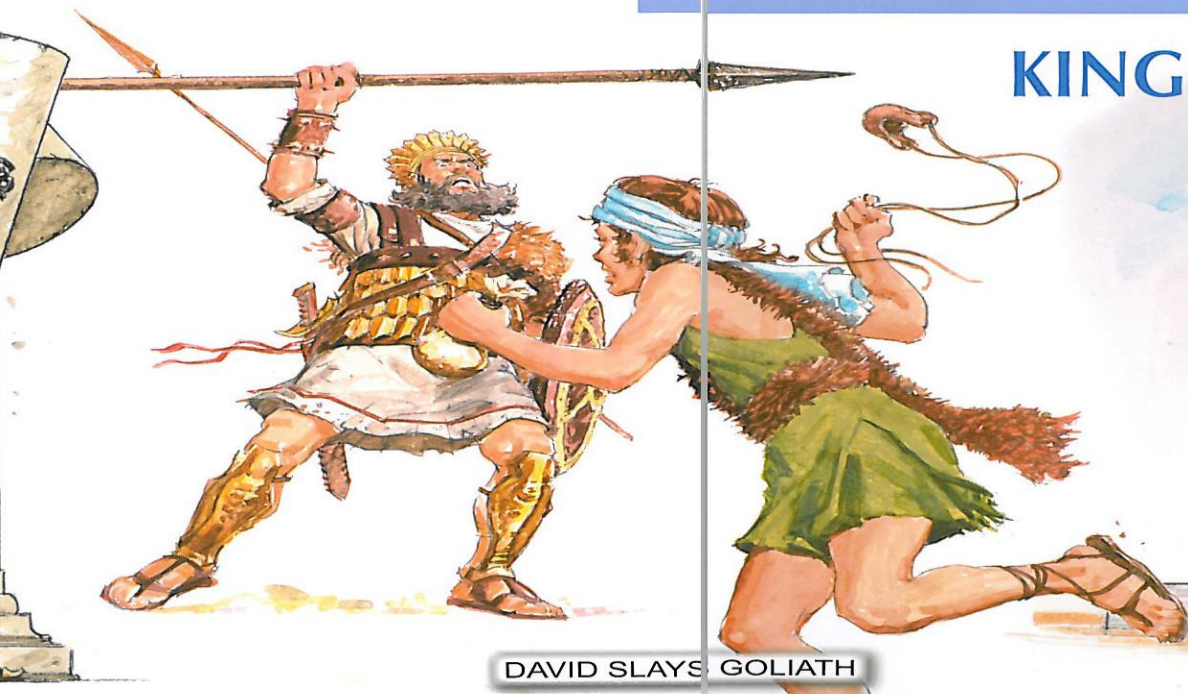
KINGS OF JUDAH (SOUTHERN) →

TEMPLE BUILT 
960.

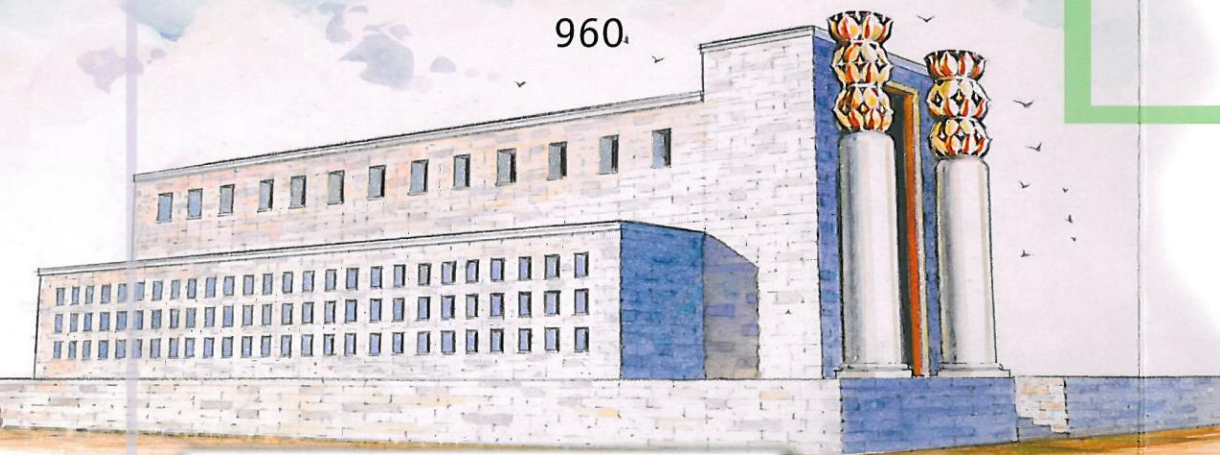
 **REHOBOAM**





UNITED KINGDOM



DAVID SLAYS GOLIATH



KING SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

900 BC

800 BC

Divided Kingdom

JEROBOAM I 931

ELAH 886

AHAZIAH 853

JEHOASH 798

ZECHARIAH 753

NADAB 910

ZIMRI 885

JEHORAM 852

SHALLUM 752

TIBNI 885

PEKAHIAH

BAASHA 909

JEHU 841

JEROBOAM II 793

HOSHIAH

OMRI 885

JEHOAHAZ 814

MENAHEM 752

AHAB 874

PEKAH 752

19 - 0

KINGDOM
DIVIDES

REHOBOAM I 931

JEHOSHAPHAT 873

AMAZIAH 796

ABIJAH 913

JORAM 853

UZZIAH (AZARIAH) 792

AHAZ 753

ASA 911

AHAZIAH 841

JOTHAM 750

QUEEN ATHALIAH 841

JOASH 835

20 - 8

ELISHA
c. 845-800

ISAIAH c. 760-673

ELIJAH c. 870-845

JONAH c. 781

MICAH
c. 738-693

AMOS c. 765-754

HOSEA c. 758-725

ELIJAH'S CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL

JONAH

700 BC

600 BC

Exile

753

752

742

732

752

ISRAEL FALLS

722

HEZEKIAH 716

735

750

60-673

MICAH

738-698

4

58-725



ASSYRIANS DEFEAT ISRAEL

NAHUM c. 658-615

JEREMIAH c. 650-582

ZEPHANIAH c. 640-626

EZEKIEL c. 620-570

HABAKKUK c. 608-598

FIRST EXILE 605

JEHOAHAZ (SHALLUM) 609

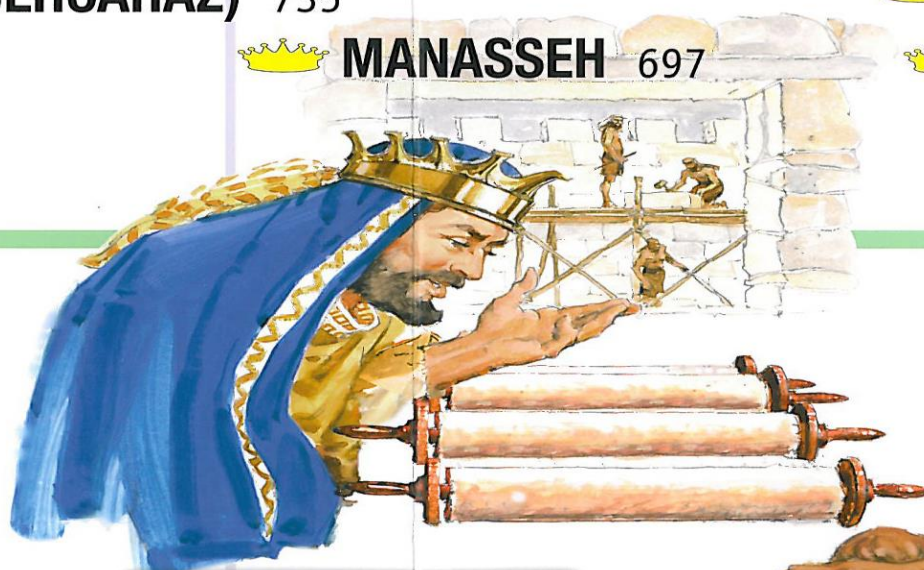
JEHOIAKIM (ELIAKIM) 609

JEHOIACHIN (JEREMIAH) 598

ZEDEKIAH (MA' TANIAH) 597

DANIEL c. 620-540

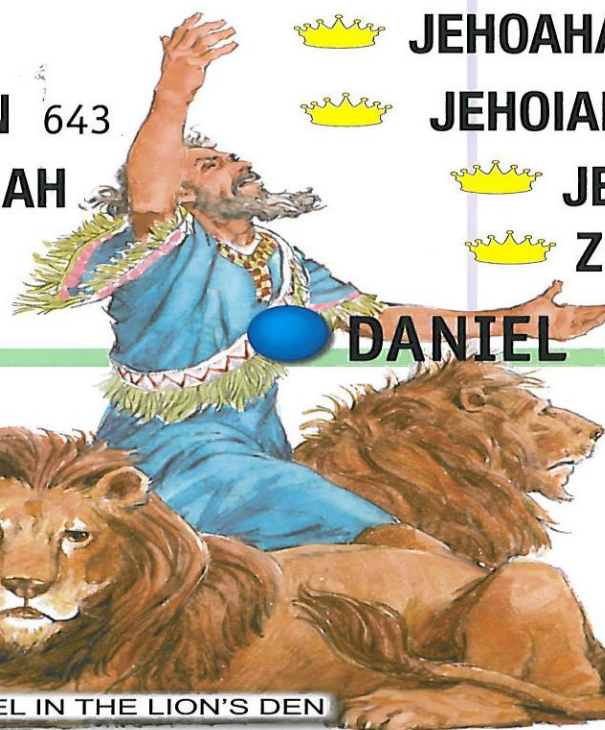
JUDAH FALLS;
JERUSALEM
DESTROYED BY
BABYLONIA 586



KING JOSIAH AND THE LAW

AMON 643

JOSIAH 641



DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Old Testament Prophets

Pre-Exilic (Israel)	Pre-Exilic (Judah)	Exilic	Post-Exilic
(Jonah)	Isaiah	Lamentations Jeremiah	Haggai
Amos	Micah	EZEKIEL	Joel (?)
Hosea	Nahum	Daniel	Zechariah
	Habakkuk	Obadiah (?)	Malachi
	Zephaniah		
	Jeremiah		

722BC Israel conquered & exiled by Assyria

641BC King Josiah

605BC Judah attacked by Babylon & 1st exile
(Daniel & friends)

597BC Judah attacked by Babylon & 2nd exile
(Ezekiel, King Jehoiachin)

THERE IS STILL TIME ...

589BC Judah attacked by Babylon (siege), temple
and city destroyed (586BC) & 3rd exile
(Jeremiah)

EZEKIEL Born

25yrs old 1:2

30yrs old 1:1



5 Years

LIFE'S BLAME GAME

EZEKIEL 18



v1 : The Word Of The LORD Came To Me:

v2 *"The Fathers Eat Sour Grapes,*

And The Children's Teeth Are Set On Edge'? "

**Q: *"What Did The People Mean By Quoting This
Proverb?"***

Cf Jer 31:29 & Lam 5:7



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

"The Fathers Eat Sour Grapes, and The Children's Teeth Are Set On Edge?"

MEANING :

What our Fathers / Parents did, we are ...

↳ **affected by it ...**

↳ **paying the price ...**

↳ **bearing the consequences ...**

IMPLICATION:

What is happening to us NOW Exiled in Babylon ...

↳ **is all because of our parents faults, problems, sins**

↳ **we are 'innocent' It's all "THEIR FAULT"...**



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

""The Fathers Eat Sour Grapes, and The Children's Teeth Are Set On Edge'?"

Q: WHERE / HOW did they get this “IDEA” or “UNDERSTANDING” ?

A: From Moses...

the Law...

the TEN COMMANDMENTS ...

Ex 20:4-6 – 2nd Commandment...

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,..."

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

"The Fathers Eat Sour Grapes, and The Children's Teeth Are Set On Edge'?

Q: WHERE / HOW did they get this “IDEA” or “UNDERSTANDING” ?

*“... punishing the children for the sin of the fathers
to the third and fourth generation”*

- **Taken literally...**
 - **Our ‘fathers’ sinned ...**
 - **We the children suffer the consequences...**
- **Natural Conclusion :**
 - **We Are NOT TO BLAME...**
 - **It’s Our “FATHER’S” FAULT**
 - **There’s NOTHING We Can / Need To Do**

LIFE’S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

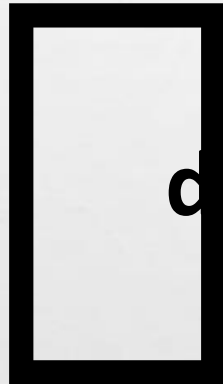
- All of us are caught up in it ...
- All of us are “playing” this “blame game”...

Q: When ...

Q: How ...

Q: Where ...

Q: Who ...



did this ‘Blame Game’ Start ?

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

From Creation.... In the Garden of Eden....

- God only have **one specific command** for Adam & Eve
 - ***'DO NOT eat from the tree of knowledge of good & evil...'***
- However –
 - Serpent tempted Eve
 - ↳ Eve ate
 - ↳ Adam ate
 - ↳ Their eyes were open...
 - ↳ Naked
 - ↳ Hide from God....



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

Life's Blame Game then Started Gen 3:11-13

God: "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

*Adam : "**THE WOMAN** you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

{It's 'the woman's' fault Not mine}

God: "What is this you have done?"

*Eve: "**THE SERPENT** deceived me, and I ate."*

{It's 'the serpent's' fault Not mine....}

ULTIMATELY - God is to 'blame'



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

Life's Blame Game Continued into
the New Testament with a slight twist

Ref John 9:1-2

A man blind from birth....

*Disciples: "Rabbi, who sinned (who is to blame),
this man or his parents, that he was born
blind?"*

*Jesus : "Neither this man nor his parents sinned,
but this happened so that the work of God
might be displayed in his life....."*

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18



Luke 13 ... the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices...

V2 "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?"

V4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?"



V3 & 4
I tell you, NO!
But unless you repent,
you too will all perish.

LIFE'S BLAME GAME — EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING...

Attitude of Jews in Babylon (& possibly also in Jerusalem)

- Our Parents fault – not ours...
- Nothing for us to do but to endure ...
- Fatalism
- Victimism....

“Whatever will be, will be. We cannot escape our fate. It does not matter what we do.”

“Blaming other people for your problems, that you are a victim of life’s unfair deal & circumstances ...”

Conclusion : We are NOT RESPONSIBLE, No Need To Change...



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING...

Prophet Ezekiel then gave clear examples
why they are **WRONG** ...

Read Ezek 18:5-9

⁵ *"Suppose there is a righteous man who
does what is just and right.*

⁶ *He does not ...*

But ...

⁹ *He follows my decrees and faithfully keeps
my laws.*

*That man is righteous; he will surely live,
declares the Sovereign Lord .*

- **IDOLATRY**

- **IMMORALITY**

- **INJUSTICE**

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

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LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING...

2nd Example ...

Read Ezek 18:10-13

¹⁰ "Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things ...

"He....

^{13b} Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things,

HE WILL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH AND HIS BLOOD WILL BE ON HIS OWN HEAD.



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING...

3rd examples ...

Read Ezek 18:14-18

“But suppose this son has a son who sees all the sins his father commits, and though he sees them, he does not do such things:

He Does NOT ...

He keeps my laws and follows my decrees.

HE WILL NOT DIE FOR HIS FATHER'S SIN;

HE WILL SURELY LIVE....



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

Ezek 18:3-4

³ "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel.

⁴ For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son — both alike belong to me.

Q: WHY must we stop playing the 'Blame Game' ?

Q: WHY is the 'Blame Game' dangerous ?

Q: WHAT's wrong with playing the 'Blame Game' ?

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

As long as we play the 'Blame Game'....

✚ It is **NOT / NEVER** my fault

✚ Others are to blame ...

✚ Parents –

Siblings –

Relatives

✚ Circumstances...

✚ Environment...

Life's Unfair....

Parental Neglect...

Parental Favouritism...

Financial status...

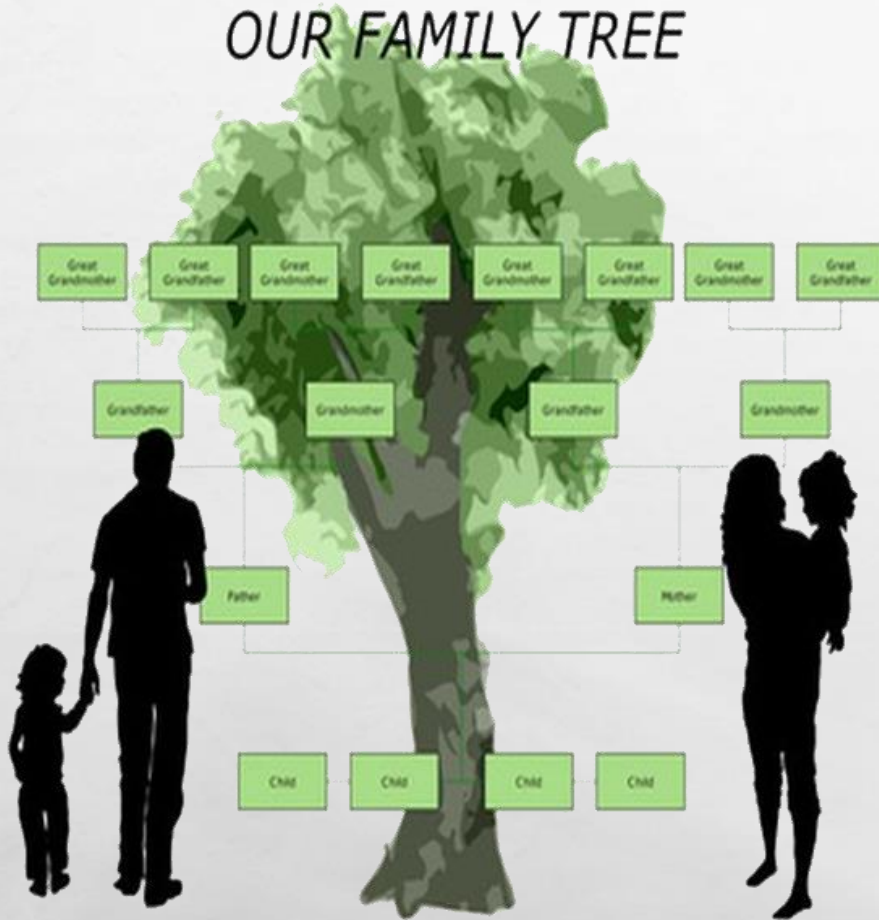
Where I stay...

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

➡ Ancestors - What About 'Generational curses' ?

OUR FAMILY TREE



Generational curses/sins is a REALITY....

Eg Abraham sin of 'deception' (Gen 12,20)

➡ Isaac ... (Gen 26)

➡ Jacob ... (Gen 27)

➡ Jacob's sons ... (Gen 37)

➡ Priest Eli ... (1 Sam 2:30-36)

➡ King David ...(2 Sam 12:10-12)

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

↳ Ancestors - 'Generational curses'....

OUR FAMILY TREE



Generational curses/sins is a REALITY....

Possible Types of Generational Curses ...

Eg: Idolatry ...

Sinful Patterns ...

Destructive Behaviours & Faulty
Mindset ...

Physical / Mental Illnesses ...

➤ Need to know / identify

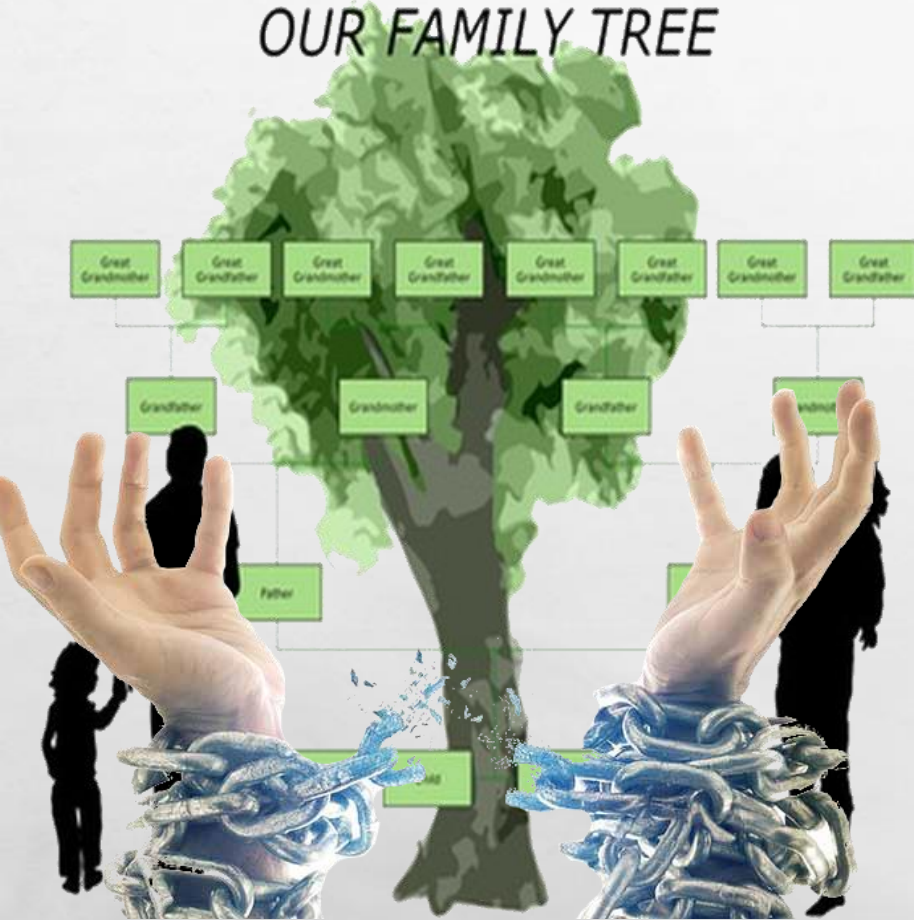
➤ Renounce & Break Free ...

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

↳ Ancestors - 'Generational curses'....

OUR FAMILY TREE



Generational curses/sins is a REALITY....
Possible Types of Generational Curses ...

Eg: Idolatry ...

Sinful Patterns

Destructive behaviours & Faulty
Mindset ...

Physical / Mental Illnesses ...

- Need to know / identify
- Renounce & Break Free ...

TENDENCY ≠ CERTAINTY

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

- Others are to blame ...
 - Boss Colleagues...
 - Friends Environment...
 - The Church... The Pastor...
 - The Government...



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

➡ Others are to blame ...

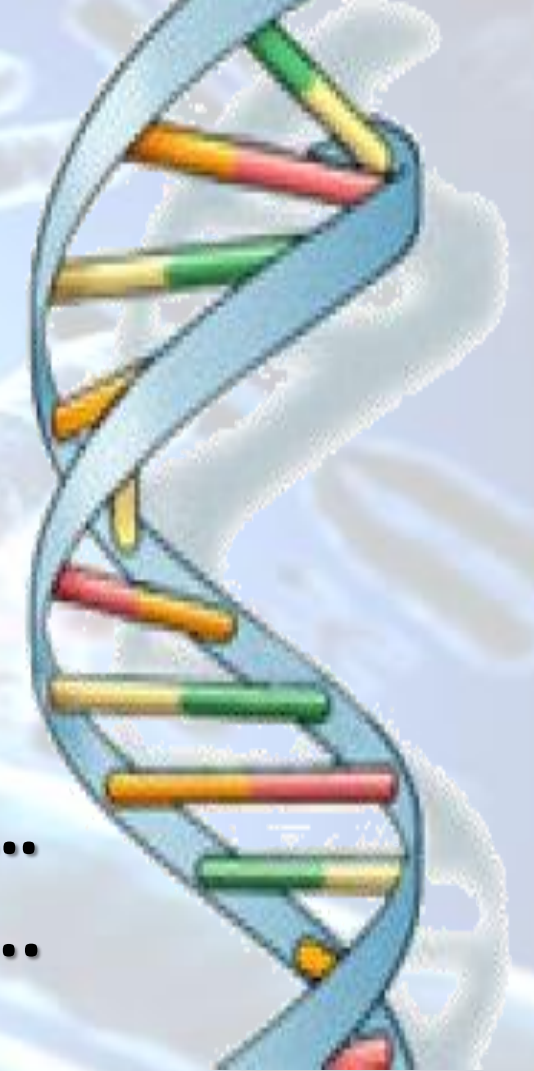
➡ Chromosomes....

Genes

DNA...

➡ GOD

- Alcoholism
- Stealing...
- Smoking....
- Depression...
- Cancers....
- Lust & Adultery...
- Homosexuality....



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING

➡ Others are to blame ...

➡ Chromosomes....

Genes

DNA...

➡ GOD

- Alcoholism
- Stealing **
- Smoking...
- Depression...
- Cancers...
- Lust & Adultery...
- Homosexuality....

TENDENCY = CERTAINTY
DISCLAIMER



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

1. STOP BLAMING...

Danger of “Blame Game”

➤ ‘Defense Mechanism’ ...

↳ Avoid Taking Responsibility ...

↳ No Need To ‘Change’

↳ You Suffer ...

↳ Others Suffer...




LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18



EXPERTS OPINION

SEVEN SIGNS you are Playing The Blame Game

- 
- 1. Do you find it hard to admit when you're wrong?*
 - 2. Do you focus a lot on the past ?*
 - 3. Do you use other people's irresponsible behavior to justify your own?*
 - 4. Do you find it difficult to apologize?*
 - 5. Do you believe life is unfair ?*
 - 6. Do you view you are NOT IN CONTROL of your life?*
 - 7. Do you feel powerless to change anything in your life?*

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

2. START OWNING

Ezek 18

V4 The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Time to Take ...

➡ **Individual Responsibility...**

➡ **Personal Accountability....**

For all of our ...

Actions or Inactions...

Commissions or Omissions...

If We Cannot - GOD CAN



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

2. START OWNING

Ezek 18:19-20

Q: "Yet you ask, 'Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?'

A: Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live.

**Your Personal
Response
Makes A
Difference**

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

2. START OWNING

Ezek 18:19-20

*The soul who sins is the one who will die.
The son will not share the guilt of the father,
nor will the father share the guilt of the son.
The righteousness of the righteous man will
be credited to him,
and the wickedness of the wicked will be
charged against him.*

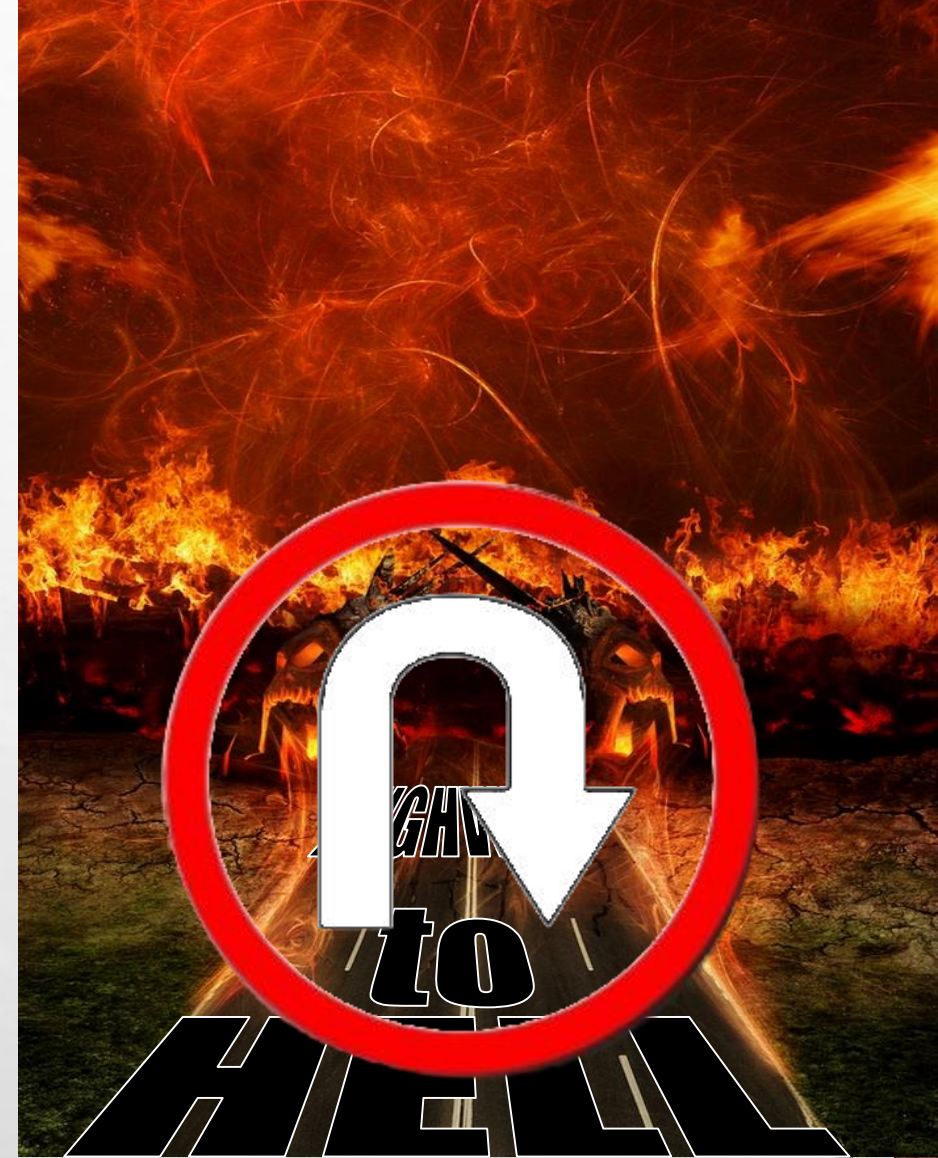
**Your Personal
Response
Makes A
Critical
Difference –
It's A CHOICE**

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

2. START OWNING

Ezekiel then gave another TWO Examples ...
Ezek 18:21-22

- ²¹ "But if a wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die.*
- ²² None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because of the righteous things he has done, he will live.*



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

2. START OWNING

2nd Example ... Ezek 18:24

"But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live?

None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die.



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

3. STAY RIGHT

Ezek 18:4

For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son — both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Ezek 18:23

*Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord .
Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?*

**We all
BELONG
to God**

**God
Loves
Us**

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

3. STAY RIGHT

Ezek 18:30-32

³⁰ "Therefore, O house of Israel, **I will judge** you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord .

Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and **get a new heart and a new spirit**. Why will you die, O house of Israel?

³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord . **Repent and live!**

**JUDGMENT
is Sure**

**REPENT
& Live
By Getting
a new Heart
& Spirit**

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18

REMEMBER:

Jeremiah 17:9-10:

*"The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things, And
Desperately Wicked: Who Can Know It?"*

*"I The Lord Search The Heart And Examine The
Mind, To Reward A Man According To His Conduct,
According To What His Deeds Deserve."*

Proverbs 21:2

*"All A Man's Ways Seem Right To Him,
But The Lord Weighs The Heart.*

*To Do What Is Right And Just Is More Acceptable
To The Lord Than Sacrifice.*

LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18



**SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH**

**Many of our Family Members
& Friends
are playing 'Blame Game'
Knowingly & Unknowingly....
Continue to reach out & invite
them...**

Jesus is their ONLY ANSWER.

**Q: On judgment day,
before Jesus, what**

- 1. STOP BLAMING**
- 2. START OWNING**
- 3. STAY RIGHT**

Take-Home Points

- 1. Take Ownership Of Our Life...**
- 2. Ultimately, It's Just YOU & GOD ...**



LIFE'S BLAME GAME – EZE 18