

## Why Will Ye Die?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Ezekiel 33:11**, "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

God is sending a message to Israel by Ezekiel and asking an important question. Why will ye die? This was the question for Israel as they refused to walk with God. He had blessed them, fought their battles, and gave them great and wonderful promises for the future. In return, he asked for their obedience to his laws and for them to shun evil. Israel, of all the nations, was the one who had the living God, not some man made idol. Even so, they were drawn to the idols and sinful ways of the nations around them.

It is senseless for someone to make an image and then bow to it and saying that it is a god. Can anything be any more foolish than that?

They made the idol, moved it, spoke for it, and worshiped it all out of their own fleshy heart. While the God who made man and called for the people to walk with God, was ignored, or at least given a superficial form of worship. If you read the Old Testament you will note that when the punishment for sin came, it was God that they called on, not their idols. God plainly told them that idol worship would lead them to death, or that they could turn to God and live. That was the choice then and it is the same for us today.

The people of today have the same decision to make that the nation of Israel had. We can live the life that God has given us according to the desires of the flesh, or we can walk with God and live. Contrary to what some believe, physical death is not the end of life. The body may die, but the spirit goes back to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7. Since God created man, he has called for us to worship him and to live according to his word.

As in Ezekiel's day there are those who believe in God and live for him and those who live in unbelief and sin. I have never understood how some say that they believe in God but make no attempt to live

for him. These are sinners like those who say that they don't believe in God at all. God sent his son, Jesus, to save us from sin. Those who believe, repent, confess, are baptized for the remission of sin, and live for him are the saved.

Those who claim to believe, but live in sin are not worshipping God, but rather mock the Lord and all he stands for. So the question to all who live their years here without walking with God is - why will ye die? And if a person continues in sin he will surely die, both physically and spiritually. Religion will not save anyone, only God can save a soul. Trusting in religion is Satan's way to make a person feel that they are alright, while keeping them from obeying God. Look at the false religions that tell a man that he can live in sin, hate people, cheat, and even kill and that he will still go to heaven.

A person may sin and get forgiveness if he repents and confesses to God, but he will not continue in sin. Someone who errs and asked seriously for forgiveness is a Christian who is trying to live for the Lord. The one who sins continually is a hypocrite and is going to face God in judgment. As he said, "Turn ye from your evil ways and live."

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This a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

### JACOB'S TOIL

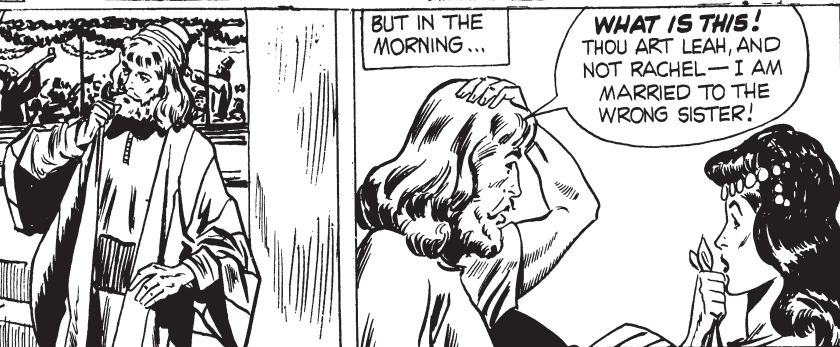
JACOB HAS SERVED LABAN, FOR HIS DAUGHTER RACHEL, FOR SEVEN YEARS - NOW AS THE TIME OF SERVITUDE COMES TO AN END...



AND NOW IT IS TIME TO CLAIM MY WAGES - THY DAUGHTER AS MY WIFE!



AND IN THE EVENING JACOB DEPARTS THE FEAST TO GO TO HIS YOUNG BRIDE AS IS THE CUSTOM OF THESE DAYS...



WHAT HAST THOU DONE UNTO ME?! DID I NOT SERVE THEE FOR RACHEL?! WHY HAST THOU TRICKED ME?!



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