

## Deuteronomy 24:16 **Every Person Dies For His Own Sin**

16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ God is a just Judge.
  - ✧ Fathers shall not be put to death for their children. [Deuteronomy 24:16]
  - ✧ Children shall not be put to death for their fathers. [Deuteronomy 24:16]
  - ✧ Each one is put to death for his own sin. [Deuteronomy 24:16]
  
- ✧ Many people have been confused about the impact of “Generational Sin” from ancestors of the past, as they feel it impacts us today and is manifest in various problems we encounter.
- ✧ This concept is faulty in the fact that they do not understand the impact of the doctrine.
- ✧ A close examination of the actual texts that declare the relationship of the iniquity of the fathers passing on to the children to the third and fourth generation is qualified by the words, “of those who hate Me.”
- ✧ Therefore, the fathers are not put to death for their children, and the children are not put to death for their fathers as is expressed in our basic text above. [Deuteronomy 24:16]
  
- ✧ God’s words to that effect are found in the following texts:

Exodus 20:5-6 [Deuteronomy 5:9-10, Exodus 20:5-6]

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations **of those who hate Me**, but showing mercy to thousands, **to those who love Me and keep My commandments.** NKJV

- ✧ Thus we see that the righteousness of God is balanced and is contingent on the attitude of the children.
  - ✧ Those who hate God will receive the continuing condemnation.
  - ✧ Those who love and obey God will receive His mercy.

Exodus 34:5-7 [God revealed His character to Moses on Mount Horeb]

5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." NKJV

- ✧ Here the same truth is revealed though He left off the words, “of those who hate me.”
  - ✧ The iniquity of the fathers passed on to the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth Generation is explained by the words, “by no means clearing the guilty.”
  - ✧ So the children and the children’s children to the third and fourth generation is for those who are themselves guilty.
  - ✧ That makes the texts consistent in concept.

Leviticus 26:39-42 [See also Ezekiel 18:1-32]

39 And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away.

40 But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, 41 and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt-- 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land. NKJV

- ✧ Here they are in the enemies land because of the sins of their ancestors that caused Yehowah to scatter them among the nations.
- ✧ They are wasting away because of their own iniquity and in their father's iniquities that they are still following.
- ✧ If they confess their own iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, accepting their guilt and recognizing that they were dispersed among the nations by God because of their sins
- ✧ Acknowledging one's sins is the first step in repentance and turning from it.
- ✧ Then God will remember His covenant and that is where His mercy begins.

Numbers 14:17-19 **Moses interceded for the people after the Golden Calf incident**

17 "And now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great, just as You have spoken, saying, 18 "The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.' 19 "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." NKJV

- ✧ When Moses interceded for the people, he quoted God's Own Words back to Him, asking God to accept his confession, pardon and forgive the people.
- ✧ Moses was therefore following God's pattern for receiving God's mercy.

Deuteronomy 5:9-10 (God repeats His original declaration) [\[Deuteronomy 5:9-10, Exodus 20:5-6\]](#)

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. NKJV

- ✧ Again God speaks of "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations."
- ✧ Here God renews the concept, "**Of those who hate Me.**"
- ✧ It all calls us to repent and turn fully to God and His Word.
- ✧ It indicates God is willing to extend His Mercy, when we repent and turn back to Him.

Isaiah 65:6-7

6 "Behold, it is written before Me:

I will not keep silence, but will repay--

Even repay into their bosom--

7 Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,"

Says the LORD,

"Who have burned incense on the mountains

And blasphemed Me on the hills;

Therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom." NKJV

- ✧ Here again it is stated the punishment is for "**Your** iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together. [\[Isaiah 65:7\]](#)

✧ You are not suffering for the iniquities of your fathers, but for your own iniquities which place you in the same punishment as your fathers for their iniquities.

2 Chronicles 25:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king. <sup>4</sup> However he did not execute their children, but did as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin." NKJV

✧ In this passage we see that, Amaziah acknowledged the commandment of [\[Deuteronomy 24:16\]](#) and applied it to his own time.