

## IS GOD FAIR?

*“Yet the family of Israel says, ‘The behaviour of the Lord is not fair.’ Are the ways in which I behave not fair, family of Israel? Are your ways not the ones that are unfair?”*

<sup>30</sup> *“Therefore, family of Israel, I shall judge each of you according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, that sin may not cause your down-fall. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all your rebellious acts, which you have been committing! Make yourselves new hearts and new spirits. Why should you die, O family of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live!” (Ezekiel 18:29-32).*

There are people who say that they have lost all faith in God because there are so many evils, so much hurt and heartache in the world all around us. Sometimes we see innocent people suffering and godly people being persecuted while at the same time wicked and godless people seem to prosper. All this happens in the world that God created. We are tempted to ask a searching question: “Is God fair?”

The people of Israel accused God of not being fair. Rebellious people, as they repeatedly were, thought that they could rise up against the holy, almighty God and accuse Him of doing things that were not fair! The Lord could not remain silent. He had to set the record straight, as we say. He said, *“Are the ways in which I behave not fair, family of Israel? Are your ways not the ones that are unfair?”*

Today, too, there are people who want to find fault with the holy and just God. How often have you heard people say, “Why does God allow this or that to happen to me or to someone else? If God is almighty, why doesn’t He put an end to all of this wickedness in the world? Is He really fair?”

If you really want an answer to the question, “Is God fair?” then let God speak for Himself, which He does in Holy Scripture. Search the Scriptures, and you will discover that God is not only fair, but He has gone far beyond being fair in all of His dealings with people. God is much more than fair! God’s Word tells us that all of the evil in this world is not of God’s making. He created a perfect world, and all of the evil in the world is of people’s making. Our first parents listened to the devil and sinned. Then sorrow and sickness, hurt and heartache, disease and death, and everything that is evil came into the world. You cannot lay any evil at God’s doorstep! For all of the evil in the world, we have ourselves to blame. Now what?

Don’t shake your fist in God’s face! Listen to God, who tells you that He will give you a new heart and a new spirit. Turn to God and receive from His forgiving lips the assurance of peace and pardon. The Lord takes no pleasure in seeing the wicked and the ungodly dying. *“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I certainly take no pleasure in the death of a wicked person. Rather, I take pleasure in the wicked person’s turning from his way that he may live. Turn back! Turn back from your evil ways!’”* (Ezekiel 33:11). *“The Lord is not slow to keep what He has promised, as some people understand slowness. Rather, He is patient with you, because He does not want any to be lost but wants all to come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

God is not only fair, He is exceedingly loving. He so loved you and all people that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus lived the perfect life in our place. He took our sins in His own body to the cross and suffered and died to redeem us. He rose from the dead and conquered death and the devil. He invites us to believe and trust in Him, and He promises, *“Because I live, you also will live”* John 14:19.