

Ezekiel 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying,

Analysis

'The word of the LORD came unto me again.' This introduces one of Ezekiel's most theologically significant chapters, addressing individual responsibility before God. The chapter refutes the fatalistic proverb in verse 2 ('The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge') and establishes personal moral accountability. This doctrine was revolutionary in emphasizing that each person bears responsibility for their own choices, not merely inheriting guilt or righteousness from ancestors.

Historical Context

Written during Babylonian exile (circa 591 BC), when exiles blamed previous generations for their suffering. The proverb reflected a belief in corporate, generational guilt that God explicitly refutes here. This teaching prepares for the New Covenant emphasis on individual faith and personal relationship with God (Jeremiah 31:29-30).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we balance biblical teaching on generational consequences with individual responsibility?
2. What 'sour grapes' excuses do we use to avoid personal accountability before God?

Interlinear Text

לְאַמְרָה: לֵאמֹר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
H1961 The word of the LORD H413 came unto me again saying
H1697 H3068 H559

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