

Ezekiel 18:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things,

Analysis

'If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things.' Now the contrast: a righteous father can have a wicked son. The son is a 'robber' (periysts—violent, lawless person) and 'shedder of blood' (shaphak dam—murderer). This establishes that righteousness is not inherited genetically or automatically through family lineage.

Historical Context

This directly refutes the fatalistic proverb of verse 2. Ancient Near Eastern cultures emphasized corporate identity and ancestral connection. Ezekiel's teaching that a righteous father's son can still be condemned was radical, emphasizing personal moral agency.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do we respond when children of faithful believers reject the faith?

2. What does this teach about the limits of parental influence and the reality of individual choice?

Interlinear Text

וְהַזֶּל יְדֵי בָּן יִצְחָק שָׁפַת הָרָבִיב וְמִתְּבָנָה אֲנָשָׁה

If he beget a son that is a robber a shedder of blood and that doeth the like

H3205 H1121 H6530 H8210 H1818 H6213 H251

מִאֵלָה: מִאֵלָה
to any one H428
H259

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:12 (Parallel theme): He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.

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