

Ezekiel 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like,

Analysis

'Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like.' The third generation: a wicked father's son who observes his father's sins and chooses differently. The Hebrew *ra'ah* ('sees') and *yare* ('considers/fears') indicate thoughtful reflection, not merely witnessing. This son learns from negative example and pursues righteousness instead.

Historical Context

King Manasseh's grandson Josiah exemplifies this pattern. Manasseh was one of Judah's most wicked kings, yet Josiah became one of the most righteous, implementing major reforms (2 Kings 22-23). Each person can break negative patterns through repentance and faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can observing others' destructive choices motivate us toward righteousness?

2. What does it mean to 'consider' sin's consequences in a way that leads to wisdom?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה H2009	הוֹלִי יָד Now lo if he beget H3205	בֶּן a son H1121	וְרָאָה and considereth H7200	אֶת H853	כָּל H3605	חַטֹּאת sins H2403
אָבִיו all his father's H1	אֲשֶׁר H834	יַעֲשֶׂה and doeth H6213	וְרָאָה and considereth H7200	וְלֹא H3808	יַעֲשֶׂה and doeth H6213	
כִּהְיוּ not such like H2004						

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 34:21 (Parallel theme): Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

Proverbs 23:24 (Parallel theme): The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.