Ezekiel 18:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

Analysis

'Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment.' The righteous grandson practices the same righteousness as his grandfather (verses 7-9), despite his father's wickedness. He breaks the family pattern of rebellion and returns to covenant faithfulness. This demonstrates that wickedness is not inevitable or inherited.

Historical Context

Biblical genealogies show varied patterns: faithful-unfaithful-faithful (Abraham-Isaac-Jacob), and unfaithful-faithful-unfaithful (Ahaz-Hezekiah-Manasseh). Each generation's faithfulness depends on their own choices, not automatic transmission of character. God's grace can break any negative cycle.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we encourage those from difficult family backgrounds that they can pursue faithfulness?
2. What does this teach about the power of personal choice and God's grace to transform?

Interlinear Text

וְאִ֔ישׁ	ל א	הוֹנָ֑ה	חֲבֹ֖ל	ל א	חָבָ֔ל
any	H3808	Neither hath oppressed	the pledge	H3808	hath not withholden
H376		H3238	H2258		H2254

וּגְזֵלָ֖ה	ל א	גָזָ֔ל	לַחְמוֹ֙	לְרָעֵ֣ב	נָתָ֗ן ׀
by violence	H3808	neither hath spoiled	his bread	to the hungry	but hath given
H1500		H1497	H3899	H7457	H5414

וְעֵר֖ וֹם	כִּסָּ֥ה	בָֽגֶד׃
the naked	and hath covered	with a garment
H5903	H3680	H899

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 18:7 (Parallel theme): And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;