

Ezekiel 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.

Analysis

'That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.' The righteous grandson's verdict: life, not death. 'He shall not die for the iniquity of his father'—explicit rejection of inherited guilt. Each person's eternal fate depends on their own relationship with God through covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

This principle is stated in Deuteronomy 24:16 ('fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers') and demonstrated in 2 Kings 14:6 when Amaziah spared the children of his father's assassins. Personal responsibility is a consistent biblical theme.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding individual accountability free us from fatalism about family patterns?
2. What hope does this offer to those from troubled or unbelieving families?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יְמַעֵּן וַתְּרִבֵּית נִשְׁאָר יָד וְמִעֵן
from the poor That hath taken off his hand usury nor increase H3808
H6041 H7725 H3027 H5392 H8636

כָּל הַנְּשָׁפֵט בְּחִקּוֹת יְמִשְׁפָט
that hath not received my judgments hath executed in my statutes hath walked H1980
H3947 H4941 H6213 H2708 H1980

וְאֵת יְמִינָה בְּעֵזֶר אָבִיו אֶחָד לֹא הַיְא
he shall not die for the iniquity of his father he shall surely
H1931 H3808 H4191 H5771 H1 H2421

!חִיָּה!
he shall surely
H2421