

Ezekiel 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:

Analysis

'But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols.'

God's command to the next generation: don't follow your parents' rebellion. 'Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers' requires breaking generational patterns. Each generation faces its own choice—repeat ancestral rebellion or pursue covenant faithfulness. This connects to Ezekiel 18's emphasis on individual responsibility.

Historical Context

The wilderness generation's children (ages 0-20 at the exodus, Numbers 14:29) became the conquest generation. They witnessed their parents' rebellion and judgment, providing negative examples. Joshua and Caleb modeled faithful alternatives. Deuteronomy addresses this second generation, calling them to covenant faithfulness their parents rejected.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we break negative generational patterns while honoring our parents?
2. What responsibility do we bear to teach the next generation from both positive and negative examples?

Interlinear Text

בָּחֹק ' בְּמִדְבָּר בְּנֵי יִהְעָם אֶל יִאָמֶר רֶא
But I said unto their children in the wilderness ye not in the statutes
H559 H413 H1121 H4057 H2706

תְּשַׁמְּרוּ אֶל מְשֻׁפְטֵיכֶם וְאַתֶּת תְּלַכְּדוּ אֶל אֲבֹתֵיכֶם
of your fathers their judgments neither observe
H1 H408 H1980 H853 H4941 H408 H8104

וְבָגְלֹלִיכֶם אֶל תְּפִלְמָאוּ: אֶל
yourselves with their idols nor defile
H1544 H408 H2930

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:7 (Parallel theme): Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

1 Peter 1:18 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;