

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

אֲלֵךְ וְאָמַרְתִּי But I said H559	אֶל בְּנֵיהֶם unto their children H1121	בַּמִּדְבָּר in the wilderness H4057	בְּחֻקֵּי ye not in the statutes H2706
אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם of your fathers H1	אֶל כֹּהֲנֵיהֶם H408	וְאֵת מִשְׁפָּטֵיהֶם H1980 their judgments H853 H4941	אֶל תִּשְׁמְרוּ H408 neither observe H8104
וּבְגִלְלֵיהֶם yourselves with their idols H1544	אֶל תִּטְמְאוּ H408 nor defile 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;