

# Jeremiah 14:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.

## Analysis

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Confession of corporate sin: 'We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.' This represents proper confession: personal ('our wickedness'), generational ('iniquity of our fathers'), and God-directed ('against thee'). Recognizing transgenerational patterns of sin shows understanding that current judgment often has roots in accumulated generational rebellion. All sin is ultimately 'against thee'—God is the offended party. This confession demonstrates what true repentance looks like: specific acknowledgment of sin without excuses or blame-shifting, recognizing both contemporary and historical guilt.

## Historical Context

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Judah's sin wasn't new; it continued patterns established by previous generations who turned from God despite witnessing His covenant faithfulness. Each generation's failure built toward eventual judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do generational patterns of sin affect present circumstances and judgment?
2. What does genuine confession look like in terms of specificity and ownership?
3. How should awareness of our fathers' sins inform our confession without becoming excuse-making?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי אֶבְרֹת יִנְאַתְּ יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה רְשִׁעָה כִּי שׁוֹעֵב אֶבְרֹת  
We acknowledge O LORD our wickedness and the iniquity of our fathers H3588  
H3045 H3068 H7562 H5771 H1

לְכַפֵּר אָנוּ כִּי  
for we have sinned H0  
H2398

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 32:5** (Sin): I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

**Jeremiah 3:25** (Sin): We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.

**Jeremiah 3:13** (Sin): Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.