

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

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

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

יָדָנוּ	יְהוָה	רָשָׁעֵנוּ	עוֹן	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	כִּי
We acknowledge	O LORD	our wickedness	and the iniquity	of our fathers	
H3045	H3068	H7562	H5771	H1	H3588
חָטָאנוּ	לָךְ:				
for we have sinned					
H2398	H0				

Additional Cross-References

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.