

Jeremiah 35:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:

Analysis

The Rechabites' faithfulness to their ancestor Jonadab's commands stands in stark contrast to Israel's unfaithfulness to God's commands. For over 200 years, this clan maintained nomadic lifestyle and abstinence from wine as their ancestor directed. Jeremiah uses them as an object lesson - if mere humans inspire such loyalty, how much more should God's people obey Him? Faithfulness across generations glorifies God.

Historical Context

The Rechabites were descendants of Jonadab son of Rechab (2 Kings 10:15-23), who helped Jehu purge Baal worship. Their lifestyle was a testimony of separation and faithfulness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What traditions and commitments has God called your family to maintain?

2. How does multi-generational faithfulness strengthen the church's witness?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------------------|--------|---------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| וַיֹּאמֶר | לֵאמֹר | תַּשְׁתַּה | לֹא | לְאַמְתָּה | רְבִנִּים | בְּנֵי | יְהוָה | לְאַמְתָּה | לְאַמְתָּה |
| But they said | H3808 | We will drink | H8354 | no wine | H3196 | H3588 | for Jonadab | H3122 | |
| H559 | | | H3808 | | H3196 | | | H3122 | |
| נְבָנִים מִ | בְּנֵי | רְבָבָה | אָבִינוּ | אָבִינוּ | צָרָה | עַל | יְהוָה | | |
| neither ye nor your sons | H1121 | of Rechab | H7394 | our father | H1 | commanded | H6680 | H5921 | |
| H1121 | | | H7394 | | H1 | | H6680 | H5921 | |
| וְבְנִים מִ | בְּנֵי | רְבָבָה | אָבִינוּ | אָבִינוּ | צָרָה | עַל | יְהוָה | | |
| But they said | H3808 | We will drink | H8354 | no wine | H3196 | H859 | neither ye nor your sons | H1121 | |
| H559 | | | H3808 | | H3196 | | | H1121 | |
| עוֹלָם: עַד | | | | | | | | | |
| for | ever | | | | | | | | |
| H5704 | H5769 | | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 2:55 (Parallel theme): And the families of the scribes which dwelt at Jabez; the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and Suchathites. These are the Kenites that came of Hemath, the father of the house of Rechab.

Luke 1:15 (Parallel theme): For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

2 Kings 10:15 (Parallel theme): And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.

Leviticus 10:9 (Parallel theme): Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Judges 13:14 (Parallel theme): She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.

Judges 13:7 (Parallel theme): But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

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