

Psalm 106:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity,
we have done wickedly.

Analysis

This verse begins corporate confession. 'We have sinned with our fathers' acknowledges generational participation in rebellion. The three-fold confession ('sinned,' 'committed iniquity,' 'done wickedly') uses different Hebrew terms: chata (אַפָּתָה, missed the mark), avah (הַעֲבָדָה, twisted/perverted), and rasha (עַשְׁתָּה, acted wickedly). This comprehensive confession acknowledges sin's breadth: missing God's standard, perverting His ways, and acting with moral corruption. Including 'with our fathers' shows continuity of rebellion across generations. This refutes the notion that each generation starts morally neutral—we inherit sinful patterns and participate in ongoing covenant breach.

Historical Context

This confession introduces Israel's historical review of wilderness rebellion. By identifying with ancestral sin ('with our fathers'), later generations acknowledged they perpetuated the same unbelief. This was especially relevant for exilic/post-exilic Israel, who experienced judgment for repeating their ancestors' idolatry and covenant-breaking.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does generational sin affect contemporary believers and churches?
2. What does comprehensive confession (multiple terms for sin) teach about true repentance?
3. In what ways do we repeat the sins and unbelief of previous generations?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֵד אֲבֹתֵינוּ
בְּעֵד אֲבֹתֵינוּ אָבֹתֵינוּ
We have sinned H5973 with our fathers we have committed iniquity
H2398 H1 H5753
הָרְשָׁעָה
we have done wickedly
H7561

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:8 (Parallel theme): And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Nehemiah 9:16 (Parallel theme): But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,

1 Kings 8:47 (Sin): Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

Leviticus 26:40 (Sin): If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;