

Psalms 109:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD;
and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

Analysis

Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD (יִזְכֹּר עֲוֹן אֲבוֹתָיו, yizcher avon avotav el-YHWH)—the verb יָזַכַּר (zachar, "remember") with עֲוֹן (avon, "iniquity, guilt") asks God to hold ancestral sins in active memory for judgment. **And let not the sin of his mother be blotted out** (וְחַטָּאת אִמּוֹ אַל-תִּמַּח, vechatat imo al-timach)—maternal sin (חַטָּאת, chatat) also retained in the divine ledger.

This echoes Exodus 20:5, "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Critics call this unjust, but covenant theology views families as corporate entities: children who continue parental rebellion inherit parental judgment. Ezekiel 18 clarifies the righteous son doesn't die for the father's sin—but the son who perpetuates that sin bears cumulative guilt. David's enemy evidently continued a family legacy of covenant-breaking; thus ancestral guilt compounds rather than being blotted out by generational repentance.

Historical Context

David himself came from a mixed heritage (Ruth the Moabitess), yet God blotted out any ancestral disqualification through covenant mercy. His enemy receives no such grace because he spurned it—refusing to repent of the family pattern of treachery.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do generational patterns of sin require both personal repentance and renouncing family iniquity?
2. What does Ezekiel 18 teach about individual responsibility versus corporate family guilt?
3. In what ways can we become "generational curse-breakers" through faith in Christ who bore our iniquity?

Interlinear Text

יִזְכָּר be remembered H2142	עוֹן Let the iniquity H5771	אָבֹתָיו of his fathers H1	אֵל H413	יְהוָה with the LORD H3068
וְלֹא יִחָטְאוּ and let not the sin H2403	אָמָּה of his mother H517	אֵל H408	תִּמְחָא be blotted out H4229	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 18:23 (Sin): Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger.

Nehemiah 4:5 (Sin): And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

Exodus 20:5 (Sin): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

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