

Christian Myth Busters

Generational Curses

Ezekiel 18

There is a trend in the church today to try to blame every sin and problem on some sort of generational curse. This is not Biblical, though it comes from the Bible. God's warning to visit iniquity on future generations is part of the Old Testament Law. The Church is not under Old Testament Law. A generational curse was a consequence for a specific nation, Israel for a specific sin, idolatry. The history books of the Old Testament, especially Judges contain the record of this divine punishment meted out for this unrepented sin.

"visiting the iniquity of the fathers unto the third and fourth generations of those who hate God"

Deuteronomy 5:8-10:

8 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

9 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous [husband] God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

10 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me [as a wife loves her husband] and keep My commandments.

“mercy to thousands”

Deuteronomy 7:9,
1 Chronicles 16:15
Psalm 105:8

John 9:2-3

"Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Ezekiel 18

Jeremiah 31:28-30

Roman 11:17-19

“Yet [all of] you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair’”

John Taylor says this:

“the proverb is saying that the sufferings of one generation are due to the misdeeds of their forbears. Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel saw this as a false and very self-justifying doctrine, because it inevitably led to a spirit of fatalism and irresponsibility. If the fault could really be laid at the door of a previous generation, those on whom the judgment was falling could reasonably shrug off any sense of sin and accuse God of injustice”

In 18:5-20 We have three cases to illustrate
the principle of personal responsibility
versus generational cursing

In vs. 5-9 we have the case of a righteous
man living righteously

In vs. 10-13 we have the case of a wicked
son of a righteous father

In vs. 14-20 we have the case of a
righteous son of a wicked father

In vs. 5–9 we have the case of a righteous man living righteously

1 John 4:20-21

In vs. 10–13 we have the case of a wicked son of a righteous father

In vs. 14–20 we have the case of a
righteous son of a wicked father

In verses 21-22 we have the case of the
changed life

In vs. 23-29 we have God's heart toward
the wicked

The cure for your sins starts with your
personal repentance

We ask: Who's your daddy?

An environmental caution