

Ezekiel 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

Analysis

God promises: "they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof." The Hebrew shiqqutsim (שִׁקְוֹצִים, "detestable things") refers to idols and abominable practices defiling the land. True restoration requires not just geographical return but spiritual reformation—removing idolatry and returning to exclusive worship of Yahweh. This principle appears throughout Scripture: repentance involves both turning from sin and turning to God. The promise emphasizes corporate reformation; the restored community will collectively purge idolatry rather than individuals maintaining private corruptions. This foreshadows New Testament church discipline maintaining purity.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied this purification (592 BC) before Jerusalem's destruction, anticipating post-exilic reform. The Babylonian captivity effectively cured Israel of idolatry—post-exilic Jews never returned to the gross syncretism that characterized pre-exilic Judah. Archaeological evidence shows pre-exilic Israelite sites filled with foreign cult objects, while post-exilic sites demonstrate renewed commitment to Torah. The reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah, including divorcing foreign wives and reconstituting temple worship, fulfilled this prophecy. The exile taught that covenant blessing requires covenant obedience, and idolatry brings divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What "detestable things" must be removed from your life before experiencing spiritual restoration?
2. How does this verse emphasize that geographical or external changes without heart transformation are insufficient?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּה אֵלֶּה שְׁמַה וְהַסְּרֹר אֶת כָּל
And they shall come H8033 thither and they shall take away H853 H3605

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמַה כָּל תְּעַבּוֹת יְבָרֵךְ מִמְּנָה:
all the detestable things H853 H3605 thereof and all the abominations H8441 H4480

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

Ezekiel 37:23 (Parallel theme): Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 7:20 (Parallel theme): As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

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