

# Ezekiel 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?

## Analysis

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God addresses false prophecy related to Sew pillows. This verse contributes to the comprehensive exposure of false teaching that enabled Israel's apostasy. The specific practices condemned show how false prophecy mixed superstition with claims of divine authority, leading people astray from covenant faithfulness.

The Hebrew terminology indicates concrete practices that promised protection or favor through human manipulation rather than covenant obedience. These represent attempts to control or manipulate divine blessing through ritual or magical means rather than submission to God's revealed will. Such practices directly violated monotheistic faith.

From a Reformed perspective, this warns against any attempt to manipulate God through religious practices divorced from heart obedience. Magical manipulations exposed. True relationship with God requires faith in His promises and submission to His commands, not manipulative rituals or techniques.

## Historical Context

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Historical context shows various superstitious practices in pre-exilic Israel combining folk religion with claims of Yahwistic authority. Archaeological evidence

includes amulets, magical texts, and fertility cult objects showing syncretism. These practices promised protection or blessing through human technique rather than covenant faithfulness, directly violating first and second commandments. Magical manipulations exposed within this cultural context of widespread religious syncretism.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this condemnation challenge modern attempts to manipulate God through religious techniques?
2. What does Sew pillows teach about the difference between faith and superstition?
3. In what ways might contemporary Christianity compromise biblical faith with cultural superstitions?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמַתְּפָר וּת	הוּא	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	אֲמַר רַ	כֹּה	אֲמַר רַ
to the women that sew	Woe	GOD	the Lord	And say	And say	
H8609	H1945	H3069	H136	H559	H3541	H559
עַל	הַמִּסְפָּח וּת	וְעָשׂ וּת	יָד י	אֲצִיל י	כָּל	עַל לַן
H5921	kerchiefs	and make	H3027	to all armholes	H3605	H5921
	H4555	H6213		H679		H3704
וְנָפֶשׁ וּת	וְנָפֶשׁ וּת	תִּצּוֹד דָּנָה	קוֹמָה	כָּל	רֹאשׁ	
souls	souls	Will ye hunt	of every stature	H3605	upon the head	
H5315	H5315	H6679	H6967		H7218	
תְּחִינָה:	תְּחִינָה:	וְנָפֶשׁ וּת	לְעַמִּי י	תִּצּוֹד דָּנָה		
alive	alive	souls	of my people	Will ye hunt		
H2421	H2421	H5315	H5971	H6679		

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Peter 2:14** (Parallel theme): Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

**Ezekiel 13:20** (References God): Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.

**Jeremiah 6:14** (Parallel theme): They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

**Ezekiel 22:25** (Parallel theme): There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

**2 Timothy 4:3** (Parallel theme): For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

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