

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

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

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

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

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| רָאָמֶן כִּי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | לְמַתְפֵּר וֹתְּהָיָה אָדָנִי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | וְאַתָּה כִּי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | לְמַתְפֵּר וֹתְּהָיָה אָדָנִי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן |
| And say H3541 | And say H559 | the Lord H136 | GOD H3069 |
| H559 | H559 | H136 | H3069 |
| pillows H3704 | to all armholes H5921 | to all armholes H3605 | and make H3027 |
| H3704 | H5921 | H3605 | H3027 |
| רָאָמֶן כִּי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | לְמַתְפֵּר וֹתְּהָיָה אָדָנִי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | וְאַתָּה כִּי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן | לְמַתְפֵּר וֹתְּהָיָה אָדָנִי אָמֶן רָאָמֶן |
| upon the head H7218 | of every stature H3605 | Will ye hunt H6967 | souls H6679 |
| H7218 | H3605 | H6967 | H6679 |
| תִּצְחַקְתָּהָיְהָ לְעַמְּךָ וְנַפְשָׁתְּךָ תִּצְחַקְתָּהָיְהָ לְעַמְּךָ וְנַפְשָׁתְּךָ |
| Will ye hunt H6679 | of my people H5971 | souls H5315 | alive H2421 |
| H6679 | H5971 | H5315 | H2421 |

Additional Cross-References

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;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org