

Ezekiel 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

Analysis

God condemns false prophets regarding Profane me among my people. This verse shows how false teaching profanes God's name by attributing to Him messages He didn't give. The practice of claiming divine authority for human opinions brings God's name into disrepute and misleads His people. The Hebrew indicates serious covenant violation—using Yahweh's name falsely violates the third commandment.

Using God's name for false teaching. False prophets caused spiritual harm by distorting people's understanding of God's character, will, and covenant demands. They made judgment seem unlikely, repentance unnecessary, and sin inconsequential—all lies that endangered souls. Their deceptive ministry required divine intervention to protect the faithful.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates God's jealousy for His glory and His protection of His people from deception. When false teaching proliferates, God directly intervenes through faithful prophets exposing error and eventually through judgment silencing false teachers. The church must maintain doctrinal integrity, opposing error and protecting believers from wolves in sheep's clothing.

Historical Context

The specific practices condemned reflect ancient Near Eastern religious syncretism mixing Yahwism with pagan divination, magic, and superstition. Using God's name for false teaching within a context where religious professionals exploited people's fears and hopes for profit. Archaeological evidence shows widespread magical practices in Iron Age Israel despite Torah prohibitions. False prophets capitalized on this syncretistic environment, offering services that mixed legitimate spiritual authority with pagan techniques. Their ministry represented covenant apostasy at leadership level, more dangerous than lay idolatry because it carried authoritative weight.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does claiming God's authority for human opinions profane His name today?
2. What responsibility does church leadership bear to protect believers from false teaching?
3. In what ways does Profane me among my people warn against mixing biblical faith with cultural superstitions?

Interlinear Text

וַתַּחֲלֵל נָה	אֶל	לְעַמִּי	בְּשַׁעֲלִי	שְׁעָרִים		
And will ye pollute	H853	H413	me among my people	for handfuls	of barley	
H2490		H5971	H8168	H8184		
וּבָפֶת וְתִי	לֶחֶם	תָּמוּתָּ נָה	נַפְשׁוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	
and for pieces	of bread	that should not die	the souls	H834	H3808	
H6595	H3899	H4191	H5315			
תָּמוּתָּ נָה	תְּחִי יָנָה	נַפְשׁוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	תְּחִי יָנָה	בְּכִי זָבָכָּם
that should not die	alive	the souls	H834	H3808	alive	by your
H4191	H2421	H5315			H2421	H3576
לְעַמִּי	שֹׁמְעֵי	כְּזָב:				
me among my people	that hear	your lies				
H5971	H8085	H3577				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:21 (Parallel theme): To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

Micah 3:5 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Jeremiah 23:17 (Parallel theme): They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

Jeremiah 23:14 (Parallel theme): I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

Ezekiel 20:39 (Parallel theme): As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

Ezekiel 22:26 (Parallel theme): Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Micah 3:11 (Parallel theme): The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.