

# Ezekiel 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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God condemns false prophets regarding I am against your pillows. 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.

God opposes manipulative practices. 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

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The specific practices condemned reflect ancient Near Eastern religious syncretism mixing Yahwism with pagan divination, magic, and superstition. God opposes manipulative practices 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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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 I am against your pillows warn against mixing biblical faith with cultural superstitions?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל	הַנֶּנֶבֶן יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	אִמְרָן	כֹּה	לְכִי
H413	H2005	GOD H3069	the Lord H136	Wherefore thus saith H559	H3651 H3541
אֶת־שָׁמַיְךָ	מִצֵּדֹד וְתִ	אֶת־עַמְּךָ	אֲשֶׁר	כִּסְתִּיתִיךָ	נָה
H853	H8033	that ye hunt H6679	wherewith ye H859	Behold I am against your pillows H3704	
מִי־לְאֶת־עַמְּךָ	וְקִרְעֵתִי יְהוָה	לְפָרְחֹתֶיךָ	נִפְשֵׁי יִם		
H5921	H853	and I will tear H7167	to make them fly H6524	and will let the souls H5315	
אֶת־עַמְּךָ	אֲשֶׁר	נִפְשֵׁי יִם	אֶת־וְשַׁלְחֹתִי	זְרוּעֵיךָ	מֵם
H859	H834	and will let the souls H5315	go H7971	them from your arms H2220	
לְפָרְחֹתֶיךָ	נִפְשֵׁי יִם	אֶת־מִצֵּדֹד וְתִ			
to make them fly H6524	and will let the souls H5315	that ye hunt H6679			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 13:18** (References God): 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?