

# Ezekiel 14:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him;

## Analysis

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God addresses Bear their iniquity in this verse. Shared guilt of deceiver and deceived, demonstrating that God sees hearts and motives, not just external religious practices. The scenario reveals the futility of seeking God while maintaining idolatry—true inquiry requires undivided allegiance. Attempting to consult God while harboring idols represents the divided heart God rejects.

The passage illustrates that religious externals without heart reality constitute hypocrisy God abhors. Mere consultation of prophets, attendance at worship, or performance of rituals means nothing if the heart remains idolatrous. God demands total allegiance, not partial commitment combined with idolatrous hedging. The call is to genuine repentance involving both turning from sin and turning to God.

From a Reformed perspective, this passage teaches the doctrine of regeneration's necessity. External religion without heart transformation cannot save. Only the Spirit's work creating new hearts produces genuine faith and repentance. Attempts to maintain both God and idols reveal unregenerate hearts needing divine recreation, not mere moral reformation.

## Historical Context

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The elders coming to Ezekiel (v. 1) represented Jerusalem's leadership or fellow exiles seeking prophetic guidance. However, God revealed their secret idolatry—they maintained household gods or idolatrous practices while outwardly seeking Yahweh. This duplicity characterized pre-exilic Israel and necessitated judgment. Shared guilt of deceiver and deceived within this context of widespread syncretism where people attempted to hedge spiritual bets by worshiping both Yahweh and other deities. Archaeological discoveries of household figurines and foreign cult objects in Israelite homes confirm this pattern. The practice violated the Shema's demand for exclusive love and loyalty to Yahweh (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage expose the futility of religious practices divorced from heart reality?
2. What modern idols do people attempt to maintain while still seeking God's blessing?
3. In what ways does Bear their iniquity illustrate the necessity of genuine conversion versus mere external religion?

## Interlinear Text

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וְנָשָׂא ו	כְּעוֹ	כְּעוֹ	
And they shall bear	shall be even as the punishment	shall be even as the punishment	
H5375	H5771	H5771	
הַדֹּרֶשׁ שׁ	כְּעוֹ	הַנָּבִי יֵא	יְהוָה: H1961
of him that seeketh	shall be even as the punishment	of the prophet	
H1875	H5771	H5030	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 23:49** (Sin): And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

**Jeremiah 14:15** (Prophecy): Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

**Genesis 4:13** (Parallel theme): And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

**Galatians 6:5** (Parallel theme): For every man shall bear his own burden.

**Ezekiel 14:4** (Prophecy): Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

**Numbers 5:31** (Sin): Then shall the man be guiltless from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her iniquity.

**Micah 7:9** (Sin): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

