

# Ezekiel 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence,  
hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to  
the idols, hath committed abomination,

## Analysis

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'Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge.' The wicked son violates economic justice—oppressing the vulnerable, stealing, refusing to return pledges. These are exact opposites of his father's righteousness (verse 7). 'And hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination'—idolatry and moral abominations complete his rebellion.

## Historical Context

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Pre-exilic Judah's social sins—oppression of the poor, corrupt justice, exploitation—were major prophetic themes (Isaiah 1:23, 10:1-2; Jeremiah 5:28, 22:13-17; Amos 2:6-7, 5:11-12). Economic injustice revealed deeper covenant unfaithfulness.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. How are social justice and worship purity connected in biblical theology?

2. What economic practices in our society constitute 'oppressing the poor and needy'?

## Interlinear Text

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ל א	חב ל	גז ל	גזל ות	הונ ה	ואביון	ענ י
	the pledge	hath spoiled	by violence	Hath oppressed	and needy	the poor
H3808	H2258	H1497	H1500	H3238	H34	H6041
תועב ה	עיניו	נשא	הגלולים	ואל	יש יב	
abomination	his eyes	and hath lifted up	to the idols	H413	hath not restored	
H8441	H5869	H5375	H1544		H7725	
עשה:						
hath committed						
H6213						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 8:6** (Parallel theme): He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

**Ezekiel 8:17** (Parallel theme): Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

**Amos 4:1** (Parallel theme): Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink.

**2 Kings 21:11** (Parallel theme): Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

**Zechariah 7:10** (Parallel theme): And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

**Ezekiel 18:16** (Parallel theme): Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment,

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