

Ezekiel 23:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths.

Analysis

Moreover this they have done unto me lists additional offenses beyond child sacrifice. They have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths details cultic corruption. Defiling the sanctuary means bringing idolatrous practices into temple worship itself. Profaning sabbaths indicates rejecting God's commanded rest and worship. In the same day reveals shocking audacity—they worshiped idols and Yahweh simultaneously, on the same day. Syncretism mingles truth and falsehood, thinking to honor God while also honoring demons. God rejects syncretistic worship absolutely. He demands exclusive devotion (Exodus 20:3). Mixing Christianity with other religions or worldly philosophies equally defiles worship. Truth tolerates no admixture with error.

Historical Context

King Manasseh placed pagan altars in the temple courts (2 Kings 21:4-5). Even after Josiah's reforms, Ezekiel 8 describes abominations practiced in the temple by Jerusalem's leaders. The people saw no contradiction in mixing worship of Yahweh with pagan practices, viewing it as inclusive and comprehensive rather than the idolatrous compromise it was.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does modern Christianity syncretize with worldly philosophies and values?
2. Why does God demand exclusive worship rather than tolerating mixed devotion?
3. What contemporary practices defile sacred worship?

Interlinear Text

תֵּךְ	עַתָּה	זֶה	שָׁוֹעַ	לִ	טָמֵא	אַתָּה
H5750	H2063	Moreover this they have done	H6213	H0	unto me they have defiled	H853
מִקְדָּשִׁי	בַּיּוֹם	בַּיּוֹם	שְׁבָתוֹתִי	אַתָּה	שְׁבָתוֹתִי	תְּלַלְּךְ
my sanctuary	in the same day	H3117	H1931	H853	my sabbaths	and have profaned
H4720					H7676	H2490

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:13 (Parallel theme): But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Ezekiel 20:24 (Parallel theme): Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

Ezekiel 7:20 (Parallel theme): As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

2 Kings 21:7 (Parallel theme): And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

Jeremiah 17:27 (Parallel theme): But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

Ezekiel 22:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.

2 Kings 21:4 (Parallel theme): And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.