

Ezekiel 23:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house.

Analysis

For when they had slain their children to their idols establishes temporal sequence—first, child sacrifice. Then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it reveals brazen hypocrisy—murdering children, then immediately entering God's temple. This juxtaposition exposes how thoroughly sin corrupts conscience. And, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house states this happened not externally but within temple precincts themselves. The phrase 'in the midst of mine house' stresses intimate violation—defiling God's dwelling place itself. If hands are bloody with child sacrifice, they defile everything they touch, especially sacred space. The horror is compounded: they murdered God's children, then brought bloodied hands into His house, expecting acceptance. Conscience seared beyond recognition.

Historical Context

The Valley of Hinnom where child sacrifice occurred was immediately adjacent to Jerusalem's southern wall. Worshipers could sacrifice children at Tophet, then walk minutes to the temple. The geographic and temporal proximity intensifies the offense—seamless transition from murder to worship, demonstrating complete moral corruption and spiritual blindness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does sin harden conscience to enable shocking hypocrisy?
2. What contemporary religious practices combine abomination with claimed piety?
3. How should awareness of our own defiled hands affect our approach to worship?

Interlinear Text

וְכִשְׁחָטוּם	אֶת	בְּנֵיהֶם	לְגִל וְלִיהֶם	וַיָּבֹאוּ	אֵל
For when they had slain	H853	their children	to their idols	then they came	H413
H7819		H1121	H1544	H935	
מִמִּקְדָּשִׁי	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	לְחַלֵּל וְ	וְהָיָה	כֹּה
into my sanctuary	the same day	H1931	to profane	H2009	H3541
H4720	H3117		H2490		
עָשׂוּ	בֵּית וְ	בֵּיתִי:			
it and lo thus have they done	in the midst	of mine house			
H6213	H8432	H1004			

Additional Cross-References

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.

Jeremiah 23:11 (Parallel theme): For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 44:7 (Temple): In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations.

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