

Ezekiel 43:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them, they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger.

Analysis

God explains why He consumed Israel in anger: they 'defiled my holy name' by setting their threshold by His, their posts by His posts, with only a wall between. This proximity without holiness—physical nearness to God's house while maintaining spiritual adultery—provoked divine wrath. The Hebrew זָנָח (zanah, 'whoredom') represents covenant unfaithfulness, particularly idolatry (Israel as God's bride committing spiritual adultery). The 'carcasses of their kings' may refer to royal tombs near the temple or idolatrous monuments. God's holiness cannot coexist with defilement—darkness and light cannot fellowship (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). The phrase 'they have even defiled my holy name' indicates that Israel's sin wasn't merely breaking rules but profaning God's reputation before nations. Reformed theology emphasizes that sin's primary offense is against God's glory (Psalm 51:4), not merely horizontal ethics.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence suggests Judahite kings were buried near the temple mount (1 Kings 2:10, 2 Chronicles 21:20, 24:16), creating proximity God found offensive. Manasseh erected altars to foreign gods within the temple courts (2 Kings 21:4-5), and Ahaz built a Syrian-style altar (2 Kings 16:10-16)—literal

placement of idolatrous 'thresholds' beside God's. The 'wall between' suggests minimal separation—physical proximity masking spiritual distance. This is hypocritical religiosity: maintaining temple worship while embracing idolatry. Jesus condemned similar behavior: 'This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth... but their heart is far from me' (Matthew 15:8). God consumed them in anger—the Babylonian conquest in 586 BC—because covenant unfaithfulness despite privileged access demanded covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28). The exile purged this syncretism, teaching that proximity to God requires holiness.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'thresholds' do you place beside God's—allowing sacred and profane to coexist without conviction?
2. How does this verse challenge 'cultural Christianity' that maintains religious forms while embracing worldly values?
3. In what ways might you be defiling God's holy name through inconsistency between profession and practice?

Interlinear Text

בְּתֵתָם	סָפִי	אֶת	סָפִי	מִזֻּזְתִּי	אֶצֶל
In their setting	by my thresholds	H853	by my thresholds	and their post	by
H5414	H5592		H5592	H4201	H681
מִזֻּזְתִּי	וְהִקֵּי יָרֵךְ	בֵּינִי	וּבֵינֵיהֶם		
and their post	and the wall	H996	H996		
H4201	H7023				
וּבֵינֵיהֶם	וְהִקֵּי יָרֵךְ	אֶת	שֵׁם	קֹדֶשׁ	יְהוָה
between me and them	they have even defiled	H853	name	my holy	
	H2930		H8034	H6944	
בְּתוֹעֲבוֹתֵם	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	וְאֶצֶל	אֶתְּ	
by their abominations	H834	that they have committed	H398	H853	
H8441		H6213			
בְּאַפִּי:					
them in mine anger					
H639					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

Ezekiel 44:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

Ezekiel 23:39 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Chronicles 33:7 (Parallel theme): And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

2 Chronicles 33:4 (Parallel theme): Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.

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