

# Ezekiel 43:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever.

## Analysis

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God's promise 'I will dwell in the midst of them for ever' is conditional: 'let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me.' Divine presence requires holiness—God dwells with the repentant, not the rebellious. The phrase 'put away... far from me' demands radical separation from sin, not gradual reform. The Hebrew שָׁכַן (shakan, 'dwell') gives us 'Shekinah' (divine presence), promising permanent residence—'for ever' (עוֹלָם, olam). This surpasses temporary visitations; God commits to ongoing, intimate fellowship. Reformed theology sees this promise fulfilled progressively: partially in the second temple, more fully in Christ ('Emmanuel, God with us,' Matthew 1:23), completely in the church as God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:22), and ultimately in the New Jerusalem where 'the tabernacle of God is with men' (Revelation 21:3).

## Historical Context

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The condition—removing whoredom and royal carcasses—addressed specific historical sins. Josiah's reforms included removing high places and defiling Topheth where children were sacrificed (2 Kings 23:1-27), but after his death, backsliding resumed. The exile forced radical purging of idolatry—no archaeological evidence suggests significant idol worship among Jews after the return. The promise 'I will dwell... for ever' must have seemed incredible to exiles who witnessed God's glory departing (Ezekiel 11:23). Yet Haggai and Zechariah prophesied that the second temple's glory would exceed the first (Haggai 2:9),

fulfilled when Christ Himself entered it. Christian theology sees the 'forever' dwelling ultimately realized in Revelation 21:3—God dwelling with humanity eternally without mediation, in new creation purged of all defilement.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What 'whoredoms' must you put 'far from' you for God to dwell in fullness—what competes for your ultimate allegiance?
2. How seriously do you take the conditional nature of God's promises—obedience required for blessing?
3. Does God's promise to dwell 'for ever' motivate pursuing holiness or presuming on grace?

## Interlinear Text

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עַתָּה	יָרְמֹק וְ	אֶת	זְנוּתָם	וּפְגָרָיו
H6258	Now let them put away	H853	their whoredom	and the carcasses
	H7368		H2184	H6297
מִמֶּלְכֵיהֶם	מִמֶּנִּי	וְשָׁכְנָתִי	בְּתוֹכָם	לְעוֹלָם:
of their kings	H4480	from me and I will dwell	in the midst	of them for ever
H4428		H7931	H8432	H5769

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 43:7** (Kingdom): And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

**2 Corinthians 6:16** (Parallel theme): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Ezekiel 37:23** (Parallel theme): Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

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