

Ezekiel 44:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God specifies the abomination: 'In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it... when ye offered my bread, the fat and the blood'—unauthorized persons profaned worship. The Hebrew נָכַר (nakar, 'strangers') and אֶרֶל (arel, 'uncircumcised') indicate those outside the covenant. Physical uncircumcision signaled spiritual uncircumcision—heart rebellion (Jeremiah 9:25-26, Ezekiel 44:9). Admitting such persons to sanctuary service violated holiness standards. The bread, fat, and blood were offerings requiring holy handlers. Reformed theology emphasizes church membership standards—not all may participate in sacraments or leadership (1 Corinthians 5:11-13, 2 John 10-11). Open access isn't loving if it compromises holiness and enables spiritual harm.

Historical Context

Foreign influence corrupted Israelite worship repeatedly. Solomon married foreign wives who turned his heart to their gods (1 Kings 11:1-8). Athaliah introduced Baal worship (2 Kings 11:18). Manasseh built altars to foreign gods within temple courts (2 Kings 21:4-5). Ezra and Nehemiah addressed mixed marriages compromising covenant faithfulness (Ezra 9-10, Nehemiah 13:23-27). The

'uncircumcised in heart' describes those who maintain external religion while lacking internal transformation (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4, 9:25-26). Paul applied circumcision spiritually—'he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly... but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit' (Romans 2:28-29). Church discipline maintains purity by excluding unrepentant sinners (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'strangers' (worldly influences, unconverted persons) have you allowed into your spiritual 'sanctuary' compromising holiness?
2. How do you balance gospel invitation (welcoming sinners) with maintaining church purity (excluding unrepentant rebels)?
3. Are you circumcised in heart (internal transformation) or merely outwardly religious without genuine conversion?

Interlinear Text

בְּהִיאֲכֶם ׀	בְּנִי	יֵכָר	יִשְׁרָאֵל י			
In that ye have brought	into my sanctuary	strangers	and uncircumcised			
H935	H1121	H5236	H6189			
לִב	יִשְׁרָאֵל י	לֶהֱיֹוֹת בָּשָׂר	בְּמִקְדָּשִׁי י	לְחַלֵּל ׀		
in heart	and uncircumcised	in flesh	to be in my sanctuary	to pollute		
H3820	H6189	H1320	H4720	H2490		
אֶת	בֵּיתִי י	בְּהִקְרִיבְכֶם ׀	אֶת	לֶחֱמִי	יֵלֵב	וְדָם
H853	it even my house	when ye offer	H853	my bread	the fat	and the blood
	H1004	H7126		H3899	H2459	H1818
וַיִּשְׁבְּרוּ	אֶת	בְּרִיתִי י	אֲלֵךְ	כָּל	תּוֹעֲבוֹתֵיכֶם:	
and they have broken	H853	my covenant	because	H3605	of all your abominations	
H6565		H1285	H413		H8441	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 22:25 (Parallel theme): Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.

Jeremiah 9:26 (Parallel theme): Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

Jeremiah 4:4 (Parallel theme): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Genesis 17:14 (Covenant): And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

Ezekiel 44:9 (Temple): Thus saith the Lord GOD; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.

Leviticus 26:41 (Parallel theme): And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

Acts 7:51 (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Acts 21:28 (Temple): Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

Deuteronomy 10:16 (Parallel theme): Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.