

# Ezekiel 44:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

God's decree—"No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary"—establishes membership standards. The Hebrew נָקָר (nekar, 'stranger/foreigner') and עַרְלָה (arel, 'uncircumcised') indicate covenant outsiders. Physical circumcision symbolized covenant membership, but heart circumcision represented genuine faith (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4, 9:25-26). External ritual without internal reality doesn't grant access. Reformed theology emphasizes regeneration precedes church membership—mere external profession without heart transformation doesn't constitute genuine faith. The church must maintain standards (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5), not adopting universal inclusivity compromising holiness.

## Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, foreign influences corrupted worship. The Law permitted foreigners who embraced covenant faith (Rahab, Ruth), but excluded those maintaining pagan allegiance. Exodus 12:48 allowed circumcised foreigners to partake in Passover—external sign expressing internal commitment. The 'uncircumcised in heart' condemned those maintaining external religion while lacking genuine devotion (Ezekiel 44:7). Stephen accused his accusers similarly: 'ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost' (Acts 7:51). Paul spiritualized circumcision: 'For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no

confidence in the flesh' (Philippians 3:3). Church membership requires credible profession of faith, not mere cultural association.

## Related Passages

## 1 John 4:8 — God is love

## **John 15:13 – Greatest form of love**

## Study Questions

1. Are you circumcised in heart (genuinely regenerate) or merely externally religious?
2. How does your church balance welcoming seekers with maintaining membership standards requiring credible faith profession?
3. What 'strangers' (unconverted influences) have you allowed into your spiritual life compromising holiness?

## Interlinear Text

כִּי	אָמַר	אָדָן	יְהֹוָה	כָּל	בְּנֵי	בָּנִים	נְכָר	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר
H3541	<b>Thus saith</b>	<b>the Lord</b>	H3068	H3605	<b>No stranger</b>	H1121	H5236	<b>nor uncircumcised</b>	H6189
	H559	H136							

בָּנִים וְבָנִים אֲשֶׁר נִכְרְבָּנִים לְכָל H3605 No stranger H5236 H834 of any stranger that is among H8432 H1121 No stranger H1121

# ישראל of Israel

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joel 3:17** (References God): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

**Zechariah 14:21** (References Lord): Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

**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.

**Mark 16:16** (Parallel theme): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

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