

# Ezekiel 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.** God takes an oath by His own life—"as I live" (chai-ani, חַי אַנִּי)—the strongest possible guarantee. When God swears by Himself (Hebrews 6:13), the promise is absolutely certain. Here, He guarantees comprehensive judgment without mercy. The defiling of "my sanctuary" (mikdashi, מִקְדָּשִׁי) particularly provokes divine wrath—they polluted God's dwelling place, the holy of holies where His presence manifested.

"Detestable things" (shikkutzayikh, שִׁקְוֹצֵיךְ) and "abominations" (to'avotayikh, תּוֹעֲבֹתֶיךְ) refer specifically to idols brought into the temple (Ezekiel 8 details these violations). Placing pagan images in Yahweh's sanctuary was ultimate sacrilege—offering to false gods what belonged to the true God alone. This pollution of sacred space warranted total judgment: "I will diminish thee" (ani egra, אַנִּי אֶגְרָע)—God Himself will reduce, cut down, and destroy the population.

"Neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity" emphasizes relentless, unmitigated judgment. The Hebrew lo-tachoh eini (לֹא-תָחֹס עִנִּי) and lo echmol (לֹא-אֶחְמֹל) stress that normal divine compassion will be withheld. This doesn't contradict God's merciful nature but reveals that persistent, unrepentant sin

exhausts patience. Yet even this severity serves redemptive purposes—severe discipline aims to restore covenant faithfulness (Hebrews 12:5-11).

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel 8 provides detailed account of temple defilement: elders worshiping images (8:10-11), women weeping for Tammuz (Babylonian fertility god, 8:14), and men bowing to the sun in the inner court (8:16). These abominations occurred in the very temple built to house God's glory, representing ultimate covenant betrayal. King Manasseh had earlier placed Asherah poles and altars to foreign gods in the temple (2 Kings 21:4-7), defiling the sanctuary systematically.

Archaeological evidence from this period includes Judean pillar figurines (likely Asherah images) found throughout Jerusalem, including near the temple mount. Seal impressions and pottery with syncretistic imagery confirm widespread idolatry. The people brought pagan worship practices directly into Yahweh's house, polluting what should have been kept holy.

God's oath 'as I live' guaranteed Jerusalem's destruction would occur exactly as prophesied. Within years, Babylonian armies burned the temple to its foundations (2 Kings 25:9), removing the defiled sanctuary completely. The severity shocked the world—could God allow His own house to burn? Ezekiel's prophecy explained: God Himself destroyed what His people had polluted beyond remedy. Only through complete removal could eventual restoration occur (Ezekiel 40-48).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does defiling God's sanctuary illustrate the ultimate rejection of His covenant and presence?

2. What does God's oath by His own life teach about the certainty of His promised judgments?
3. In what ways might contemporary believers 'defile the sanctuary' (our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 6:19)?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָיְנָה אָנָּם אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים  
 H3651 Wherefore as I live H589 saith H5002 the Lord H136 GOD H518 H3808 H3282  
 H2416 H2930 H3069

אַתָּה מִקְדָּשׁ בְּכָל  
 H853 my sanctuary Surely because thou hast defiled H3605  
 H4720 H2930

אַתָּה וְבְכָל שְׁקָוֹץ יְהוָה תְּעַבֵּת  
 with all thy detestable things H3605 and with all thine abominations H8441 H1571 H589  
 H8251

אַגְּרָע תִּחְסֹר וְלֹא עִינֵּין  
 therefore will I also diminish H3808 spare H2347 thee neither shall mine eye H5869 H1571 H589  
 H1639

אַחֲמֹל: לֹא אָנָּה  
 H589 H3808 neither will I have any pity H2550

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 7:20** (Parallel theme): As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

**Ezekiel 11:18** (Parallel theme): And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

**Ezekiel 7:4** (References Lord): And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

**Ezekiel 7:9** (References Lord): And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth.

**2 Chronicles 36:14** (References Lord): Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

**Jeremiah 16:18** (Parallel theme): And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcases of their detestable and abominable things.

**Ezekiel 9:10** (Parallel theme): And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

**Ezekiel 8:16** (Temple): And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

**Ezekiel 9:5** (Parallel theme): And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

**Ezekiel 8:18** (Parallel theme): Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.