

# Ezekiel 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

## Analysis

---

"Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger." God's rhetorical questions emphasize sin's gravity. The phrase "is it a light thing" rebukes casual attitude toward covenant violation. Idolatry combined with violence (social injustice) compounds guilt. True religion requires both right worship and right conduct. Divorcing theology from ethics betrays covenant relationship. God demands comprehensive obedience: loving Him supremely and neighbors justly.

## Historical Context

---

Pre-exilic Judah (592 BC) combined false worship with social oppression—a deadly combination prophets repeatedly condemned. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, and Micah all indicted this hypocrisy: elaborate religious ceremonies alongside exploitation of vulnerable. God rejects worship divorced from justice (Isaiah 1:11-17). The temple's corruption extended beyond ritual to ethical failure, filling the land with violence. This comprehensive rebellion necessitated comprehensive judgment. The pattern warns against divorcing orthodoxy from orthopraxy.

## Related Passages

---

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How does combining false worship with social injustice compound guilt?
2. What modern examples exist of religious activity divorced from ethical integrity?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיֹּאמֶר Then he said H559	אֵלַי H413	הֲרָא יֵת unto me Hast thou seen H7200	בֶּן this O son H1121	אָדָם of man H120	הֲנִלְקָל Is it a light thing H7043
לְבֵית to the house H1004	יְהוּדָה of Judah H3063	עָשׂוּ that they commit H6213	אֵת H853	הַתּוֹעֵב וְאֵת the abominations H8441	אֶשׁ H834
עָשׂוּ that they commit H6213	כִּי H6311	כִּי H3588	מָלְאוּ here for they have filled H4390	אֶת H853	הָאֲרֶץ the land H776
עִם with violence H2555	וַיָּשׁוּבוּ and have returned H7725	לְהַכְעִיֵּם נִי to provoke me to anger H3707	וְהִנֵּה H2005	וְהִנֵּה H2005	וְהִנֵּה H2005
אֵת H853	הַזֵּמּוּךְ the branch H2156	אֶל H413	אֲפָם: to their nose H639		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Ezekiel 9:9** (Parallel theme): Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

**Ezekiel 7:23** (Parallel theme): Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

**Jeremiah 6:7** (Parallel theme): As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: violence and spoil is heard in her; before me continually is grief and wounds.

**Amos 3:10** (Parallel theme): For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

**Micah 2:2** (Parallel theme): And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.