

# 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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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בָּנֶקֶל	אָדָם	בֶּן	בָּנָא יְתָ	אֶלְיָהוּ	וַיֹּאמֶר	תְּנַזֵּל
<b>Then he said</b>	H413	<b>unto me</b>	<b>Hast thou seen</b>	<b>this O son</b>	<b>of man</b>	<b>Is it a light thing</b>
	H559		H7200	H1121	H120	H7043
לְבָבְךָ	יְהוּדָה	יְהוָה	עֲשָׂוָה	אַתָּה	הַתֹּועַבָּה	וְתַּעֲשֶׂה
<b>to the house</b>	H1004	<b>of Judah</b>	H3063	<b>that they commit</b>	H853	<b>the abominations</b>
					H8441	H834
עֲשָׂוָה	פְּנֵי	פְּנֵי	מְלָא	אַתָּה	בְּאֶרֶץ	שָׁלַחַ
<b>that they commit</b>	H6213	H6311	H3588	H4390	H853	<b>the land</b>
					H776	
בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	לְהַכְעִיס	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	וְהַנְּזִנְתָּם	וְשָׁלַחַ
<b>with violence</b>	H2555	<b>and have returned</b>	H7725	<b>to provoke me to anger</b>	H3707	<b>and lo they put</b>
					H2005	H7971
אֲלֵיכֶם	בְּצִמְצָעָה	אֶל	אֲלֵיכֶם	בְּנֵי	וְהַנְּזִנְתָּם	וְשָׁלַחַ
<b>the branch</b>	H2156	H413	<b>to their nose</b>	H639		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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