

Ezekiel 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

Analysis

"Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth." God commands defiling His own temple with corpses—ultimate reversal. The temple meant to be holy becomes charnel house. This demonstrates that when people defile the sanctuary spiritually through idolatry, God completes the defilement physically through judgment. The permission to defile what should be sacred shows that holiness derives from God's presence and obedience, not from architectural designation. Once glory departs (verse 3), the building is merely stone subject to desecration.

Historical Context

When Babylon destroyed Jerusalem's temple (586 BC), slaughter occurred in its courts, literally defiling the sacred space with corpses. This fulfilled Ezekiel's vision precisely. The defilement completed what Israel's idolatry began—they defiled it spiritually; God permitted physical defilement as judgment. The temple's destruction shocked the ancient world but vindicated God's holiness—He won't preserve polluted sanctuaries that profane His name.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God permitting temple defilement teach that buildings derive holiness from obedience, not designation?
2. What does this reversal (sacred becoming profane) reveal about the seriousness of spiritual defilement?
3. In what ways might contemporary churches be spiritually defiled while maintaining outward religious forms?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶלָּהֶם	טְמֵאָה	אַתָּה	הַבָּיִת	וּמְלָאָה	אַתָּה
And he said	H413	unto them Defile	H853	the house	and fill	H853

בָּעֵיר: in the city H5892

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 36:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

