

# Ezra 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

## Analysis

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The climactic question: 'Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?' The word 'again' emphasizes repeating previously judged sins. The rhetorical question acknowledges that persistent covenant breaking invites complete destruction. The phrase 'till thou hadst consumed us' recognizes God's justice would warrant total annihilation. This isn't manipulation but sober recognition of what renewed sin deserves. The final phrase 'no remnant nor escaping' pictures complete destruction.

## Historical Context

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The question's logic: if exile was punishment for these sins, repeating them courts renewed and final judgment. The prophets warned that persistent covenant violation would bring complete destruction (Jeremiah 7:12-15). The acknowledgment shows Ezra understands that God's patience has limits. While God is merciful, presuming on mercy by deliberately sinning is folly. The community's survival depended on covenant faithfulness, not ethnic identity or past promises divorced from obedience. This theology challenged false security.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the question 'should we again break thy commandments?' demonstrate understanding that persistent sin courts ultimate judgment?
2. What does the phrase 'consumed us... no remnant nor escaping' teach about God's patience having limits despite His mercy?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּעֵת	רִ	בְּנֵשׁוֹב	לִפְפָ	מִצּוֹת	יְבָ	לְהַתְמִתָּת	וְ	בְּעֵת
Should we again	break	thy commandments		and join in affinity		with the people		
H7725	H6565	H4687		H2859		H5971		
בְּעֵת	וְ	בְּנֵשׁוֹב	וְתָ	בְּלִ	וְאַ	בְּאַ	לְהַ	תִּאֲנֶ
of these abominations				H428	H3808			wouldest not thou be angry
H8441								H0
בְּעֵת	וְ	בְּנֵשׁוֹב	וְתָ	בְּלִ	וְאַ	בְּאַ	לְהַ	תִּשְׁאַר
with us till thou hadst consumed				H369				remnant
H5704								H7611
וְפָלִיטָה:								
nor escaping								
H6413								

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:8** (Parallel theme): Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you.

**Deuteronomy 9:14** (Parallel theme): Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

**Ezra 9:2** (Parallel theme): For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

**Exodus 32:10** (Parallel theme): Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

**Romans 6:1** (Parallel theme): What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

**John 5:14** (Parallel theme): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

**Numbers 16:21** (Parallel theme): Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

**Numbers 16:45** (Parallel theme): Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

**Judges 2:2** (Parallel theme): And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?