

# Isaiah 27:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

## Analysis

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**By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.** This verse reveals the purpose of measured discipline: purging sin. **Iniquity...purged** (avon...yekupar, עון...יְכֻפֵּר) uses the Hebrew root for atonement/covering—discipline serves redemptive purposes. **This is all the fruit** indicates the complete result or purpose of God's dealings.

**To take away his sin** (hasir chattato, הַסֵּר חַטָּאת) literally means "the removing of his sin"—the goal is sin's elimination, not mere punishment. The evidence of genuine repentance follows: **when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder**—destroying pagan altars so thoroughly they become like pulverized chalk. **The groves and images shall not stand up** (asherim vechamanim lo yaqumu, אֲשֶׁרִים וְחָמָנִים לֹא יַקְעֻמּוּ)—no toleration of idolatrous asherim (wooden poles representing fertility goddess Asherah) or chamanim (incense altars/sun pillars). True repentance means radical rejection of false worship.

## Historical Context

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Throughout Israel's history, incomplete reforms left pagan elements standing (2 Kings 18:4 notes Hezekiah removed high places previous kings left). Post-exilic Judaism became fiercely monotheistic, having learned through exile's bitter lesson. Jesus similarly demands radical removal of sin (Matthew 5:29-30). The New Testament temple is believers' hearts (1 Corinthians 3:16), requiring purging of spiritual idols—anything receiving devotion belonging only to God (1 John 5:21).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does this verse teach about the purpose of God's discipline—is it primarily punitive or purifying?
2. How thorough must repentance be ('chalkstones beaten in sunder')—what half-measures is God calling you to eliminate?
3. What modern 'groves and images' (idols of the heart) need to be completely removed from your life?

## Interlinear Text

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|                           |                    |                |                              |                           |             |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| לְכָה                     | בְּזָאת            | רְכַפֵּת       | עַזְיָן                      | כָּל                      | בְּיַעֲקֹב  |
| H3651                     | By this            | be purged      | therefore shall the iniquity | of Jacob                  | H2088 H3605 |
| H2063                     |                    | H3722          | H5771                        | H3290                     |             |
| פְּרִי                    | רְכַס              | מְפֻטָּת       | בְּשָׁוֹם                    | כָּל                      |             |
| and this is all the fruit | to take away       | his sin        | when he maketh               | H3605                     |             |
| H6529                     |                    | H5493          | H2403                        | H7760                     |             |
| כָּלְבָנִים               | מִזְבֵּחַ          | כָּאַבְנִים    | גָּרָב                       | מִנְפְּצָץ                | וְתַ        |
| all the stones            | of the altar       | all the stones | as chalkstones               | that are beaten in sunder |             |
| H68                       | H4196              | H68            | H1615                        | H5310                     |             |
| לֹא                       | יַקְרֵב            | אֲשֶׁר         | יָמִים                       | וְמִמְפְּנֵיכֶם:          |             |
| H3808                     | shall not stand up | the groves     | and images                   |                           |             |
| H6965                     |                    | H842           | H2553                        |                           |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 48:10** (Parallel theme): Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

**Romans 11:27** (Sin): For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

**Isaiah 17:8** (Sacrifice): And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

**Daniel 11:35** (Parallel theme): And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.