

# Jeremiah 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

## Analysis

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The reason for refusing their prayers: 'When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them.' Religious observances (fasting, offerings) without heart repentance are rejected. God's refusal to 'hear' and 'accept' shows that ritual divorced from righteousness is worthless. The threat follows: 'but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.' This triad of judgment (sword, famine, pestilence) appears frequently in Jeremiah. The verse teaches that external religious activity cannot manipulate God into blessing when the heart remains rebellious.

## Historical Context

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Judah maintained temple worship and religious observances while practicing idolatry and injustice. This hypocritical religiosity provoked God's rejection more than outright paganism might have.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can religious observance become a substitute for genuine repentance?
2. What makes worship acceptable versus unacceptable to God?
3. Why does hypocritical religion often provoke God's judgment more than open irreligion?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֶּנֶת מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not hear	וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not accept
וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not hear	וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not accept
וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not hear	וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not accept
וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not hear	וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not accept
וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not hear	וְאֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל שְׁמָעָנָה אֵלֶּל מִן אֵלֶּל	I will not accept

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 1:28** (Parallel theme): Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

**Jeremiah 11:11** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

**Jeremiah 6:20** (Sacrifice): To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

**Ezekiel 8:18** (Parallel theme): Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

**Zechariah 7:13** (Parallel theme): Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

**Ezekiel 14:21** (Word): For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

**Micah 3:4** (Parallel theme): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

**Jeremiah 16:4** (Word): They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

**Jeremiah 24:10** (Word): And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.