

Jeremiah 32:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.

Analysis

They set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it—(**וַיְשִׂיםוּ שְׁקָדְמִים בְּבֹית אָשֶׁר-בָּנָה אֶלְעָמָן עַלְיוֹ לְטַמֵּאָו**)—The ultimate desecration: placing shiqquts (שְׁקָדָם, detestable idols) in **the house called by my name**, i.e., the Jerusalem temple. Historical precedent includes Manasseh's Asherah pole in the temple (2 Kings 21:7) and later abominations cataloged in Ezekiel 8.

The verb tame (תְּמַתּוּ, to defile) denotes ritual pollution making the holy place unfit for God's presence. That they defiled **the house called by my name**—God's earthly dwelling where His Name (His revealed character and presence) resided—was spiritual treason. Jesus later cleansed the temple (John 2:13-17), and Paul warns believers, 'If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are' (1 Corinthians 3:17).

Historical Context

King Manasseh (697-643 BC) introduced pagan altars, Asherah poles, and astral deities into the temple courts (2 Kings 21:3-7). Though Josiah reformed the temple (2 Kings 23), subsequent kings allowed idolatrous practices to return. By Jeremiah's time, syncretistic worship had thoroughly corrupted temple worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'abominations' might defile the temple of your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)?
2. How does mixing Christianity with cultural idols parallel Judah's temple desecration?
3. In what ways can religious institutions become polluted while maintaining external forms of worship?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמָ יְמֹן יְשִׁים בְּבֵית שְׁקָוְצִים אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא שְׁמִי
But they set their abominations in the house which is called by my name
H7760 H8251 H1004 H834 H7121 H8034

לְטַמְּאָה: עַל יְלִינָה
to defile
H5921 H2930

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:30 (Parallel theme): For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.

Jeremiah 23:11 (Parallel theme): For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.