

# Jeremiah 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

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This verse describes false prophets' response to their failure: 'Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?' The rhetorical question uses Hebrew *he'evah* (הָעֵוָה, abomination)—the strongest term for something detestable to God. 'Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush.' The doubled negative (*lo vosh yevoshu*, לֹא בֹשׁ יִבְשׁוּ, and inability to blush (*haklim*, הִכְלִימ, to become red-faced) indicates seared consciences beyond normal shame response. 'Therefore shall they fall among them that fall' pronounces judgment—those who led others into ruin will share their fate. 'In the time of their visitation they shall be cast down' uses *paqad* (פָּקַד, to visit, reckon with) indicating divine audit and judgment.

## Historical Context

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The inability to feel shame indicates moral cauterization through repeated sin (1 Timothy 4:2). Ancient Near Eastern shame cultures valued public honor; shamelessness was considered the final stage of moral degradation. False prophets in Jeremiah's day not only failed to repent when exposed but continued their false message with brazen confidence. Their 'visitation' came with Babylon's conquest when many were killed or exiled.

## Related Passages

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does repeated sin deaden our conscience until we can no longer feel appropriate shame?
2. What spiritual practices help maintain sensitivity to sin that prevents the hardening described here?

## Interlinear Text

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הִבּוּ שׁוּ	כִּי	תוֹעֵבָה	עָשׂוּ	גַּם	יִבּוּ שׁוּ	
Were they ashamed	H3588	abomination	when they had committed	H1571	ashamed	
H3001		H8441	H6213		H954	
לֹא	יִבּוּ שׁוּ	וְהִכָּלִם	לֹא	יָד עוֹ	לָכֵן	בִּנְפֹלִים
H3808	ashamed	they blush	H3808	neither could	H3651	among them that fall
	H954	H3637		H3045		H5307
בִּנְפֹלִים	בְּעֵת	פְּקֻדָּתָם	יִכָּשְׁלוּ	אָמַר		
among them that fall	in the time	of their visitation	they shall be cast down	saith		
H5307	H6256	H6486	H3782	H559		
יְהוָה:						
the LORD						
H3068						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 3:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

**Isaiah 3:9** (Parallel theme): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

**Psalms 52:7** (Parallel theme): Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

**Jeremiah 6:15** (References Lord): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

**Psalms 52:1** (Parallel theme): Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.

**Deuteronomy 32:35** (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

**Zephaniah 3:5** (References Lord): The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.