

# 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

This verse describes false prophets' response to their failure: 'Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination?' The rhetorical question uses Hebrew *hevish* (הָבֵישׁ, to be ashamed) with *to'evah* (תֹּוֹבַעַת, 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 בָּשׁ יְבָשּׁו) and inability to blush (*haklim*, הָכְלִים, 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

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

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

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

## Study Questions

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

בָּשָׂר	עַשׂ	הַבָּשָׂר	תֹּעַבְתָּה	כִּי	בָּשָׂר
<b>ashamed</b>	<b>committed</b>	<b>had</b>	<b>abomination</b>	<b>when</b>	<b>they</b>
הַבָּשָׂר	וְעַשְׂתָּה	בָּשָׂר	תֹּעַבְתָּה	כִּי	בָּשָׂר
בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר
בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר	בָּשָׂר

הו:

the LORD

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## Additional Cross-References

**Jeremiah 3:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withheld, 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.