
SUNDAY SERMON

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Willow, Alaska**

Date: November 05, 2017

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 23:1-49

Text: Ezekiel 23:1-49

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Parable of Aholah and
Aholibah**

Ezekiel was among those who were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar and his army. He was among the princes, and the might men of valor taken to Babylon by the King of Babylon. Now he is in the land where he was given the words of this book by the LORD GOD. You will recall that he was rightly named as one sent to prophesy to the WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. The northern kingdom of Israel, whose capital was Samaria, was taken captive and carried away by the king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, in about the year 721 BC. This was more than 120 years before Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and besieged Judah and Jerusalem.

Having studied chapter 22 last time concerning the enumerating of the sins of Israel, we now move into the 23rd chapter of this great prophecy.

- **Two Women – Daughters of one mother – Aholah and Aholibah (Verses 1-8)**

1 ¶ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother: 3 And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed

whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity. 4 And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

According to Easton's Bible Dictionary, the word **Aholah** means she has her own tent. This is a name used by Ezekiel as a symbol of the idolatry of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Easton says **Aholibah** means: My tent is in her, the name of an imaginary harlot, applied symbolically to Jerusalem, because she had abandoned the worship of the true God and given herself up to the idolatries of foreign nations.

5 And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours, 6 Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses. 7 Thus she committed her whoredoms with them, with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself. 8 Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.

Aholah, the northern Kingdom was the married wife of Jehovah, and so ought to have cleaved to him alone. She is said to have doted on her lovers. The very "dote" is an obsolete word in English. The OED defines it is: "To love to excess; to bestow extravagant affection on – also to "endow with riches, dignity."

She was mad with love, to the idols, temples, altars, and idolatrous worship of the Heathens; particularly doted "on the Assyrians her neighbors"; who were become so by the conquest of Syria; and these the northern Kingdom treated as their neighbors, and sought to have them to be their allies and confederates. Israel courted their help and assistance, and gave them much money for that purpose; as Menahem gave to Pul king of Assyria a thousand talents of silver, to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

2 Kings 15:19 And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

- **Jehovah delivers Aholah, the Northern Kingdom into the hands of the Assyrians. (Verses 9-10).**

9 Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted.

Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, -- To destruction; their persons, families, riches, and kingdom itself.

into the hand of the Assyrians, on whom she doted; -- first into the hands of Pul, then Tiglathpileser, then Shalmaneser, all kings of Assyria, by whom they were spoiled or carried captive; by the first two kings partially, by the last King, viz: Shalmaneser, wholly.

2 Kings 17:5-6 *Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.*

10 ***These discovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her.***

Nebuchadnezzar stripped Aholah (the northern kingdom) of all their substance and carried them captive. He put an end to the northern kingdom of Israel, or the ten tribes, and which was never recovered to this day.

famous among women; -- She became famous, or rather infamous, among other nations who talked of her sins, her whoredoms and idolatries, and the vengeance of God upon her for them. She became a byword and a proverb among the kingdoms of the world for her wickedness and her destruction who executed judgment upon her as the instruments of God's hand in doing justice to her.

- **Aholibah's corruption of herself (Verses 11-21).**

11 ¶ ***And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms. 12 She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most***

gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men.

Aholibah (Jerusalem) did far worse than the northern kingdom had done even after seeing the end of that kingdom. **She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours**, -- She doted (loved to excess; bestowed extravagant affection on – and “endowed with riches, dignity) the Assyrians. As in the times of Ahaz, who sent to Tiglathpileser, king of Assyria, for help.

captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously; -- or "perfectly"; with all kind of precious garments, and of all manner of colors; not with blue only, but purple, scarlet, crimson, etc. **horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men**;

13 Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way, 14 And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermilion, 15 Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity: 16 And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea.

Sent messengers unto them (the Babylonians) into Chaldea. -- It was she that solicited the Chaldeans, not they her.

It appears the occasion referred to in this 16th verse is

when King Ahaz sent to the Chaldeans for help.

2 Kings 16:7-9 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, I *am* thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. **8** And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent *it for* a present to the king of Assyria. **9** And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of* it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

No doubt, the LORD moved Judah to this – so that their judgment would come from those upon whom she doted.

17 And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them. 18 So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.

When the Babylonians came (which was years later), they defiled her and polluted her so that her mind was alienated from them. This caused her to discover her whoredoms and see her nakedness. Then the LORD's mind was alienated from Judah, like as his mind was alienated from Samaria and the Northern Kingdom delivering them into the hands of the King of Assyria.

19 Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to

remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

They called to mind with pleasure the idolatries of their fathers in Egypt, and committed the same themselves; they sent ambassadors to Egypt, in the times of Zedekiah, for help and assistance, and to enter into alliance with the Egyptians, where they once again “leaned to the arm of flesh.”

20 For she doted upon their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses.

This is remarkable expression of Judah’s lewdness. The expression “she doted upon their paramours,” means she inordinately loved their concubines. The rest of the verse speaks of the insatiableness of Judah – she could not rest content, but went after those with whom she committed spiritual fornication – idolatry.

21 Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy teats by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth.

No doubt they remembered the incident of the golden calf in the wilderness of which they had learned in Egypt. Around “their so-called god,” the golden calf, they stripped themselves and rose up to play. They became naked there to their shame.

Exodus 32:25 *And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)*

But their sins found them out when Moses and Joshua came down from the mount!

- **The LORD God sends Aholibah’s lovers against her in judgment. (Verses 22-35).**

22 ¶ Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side; 23 The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them: all of them desirable young men, captains and rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding upon horses. 24 And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments.

The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them -- Both the inhabitants of the city of Babylon, called in the Hebrew text the children of Babylon, and all the inhabitants of the individual parts of the country of Chaldean, of which Babylon was the metropolis. Who, or precisely what, the names Pekod, Shoa, and Koa mean is disputed. This preacher does not know for sure.

- **In these next few verses, we read of the jealousy of God for his covenant nation and people.**

Exodus 34:14 *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD,*

whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Deuteronomy 4:24 *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

25 *And I will set my jealousy against thee, and they shall deal furiously with thee: they shall take away thy nose and thine ears; and thy remnant shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters; and thy residue shall be devoured by the fire. 26* *They shall also strip thee out of thy clothes, and take away thy fair jewels. 27* *Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more. 28* *For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated: 29* *And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms. 30* *I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols.*

- **Aholibah, you have been like your sister Aholah, except worse (Verses 31-36).**

31 *Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand. 32* *Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou shalt drink of thy sister's cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much. 33* *Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup*

of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria. 34 Thou shalt even drink it and suck it out, and thou shalt break the sherds thereof, and pluck off thine own breasts: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. 35 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

36 ¶ The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations;

- **The LORD again enumerates Judah's sins against him (Verses 37-49).**

37 That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them. 38 Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths. 39 For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house. 40 And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments, 41 And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil. 42 And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought

Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads. 43 Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them? 44 Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

45 And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands. 46 For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled. 47 And the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire. 48 Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness. 49 And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Application: We as God’s children – especially those of us who are in his body, the church, owe our whole heart, and soul, and mind, and strength to the LORD. He has redeemed us to himself and given us, who had no hope, great consolation and good hope through grace. We must ask, are we delivered to do abominable things? We dare not be as Jerusalem was in those days.

Jeremiah 7:9-10 *Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; 10 And come and stand before*

me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

Thanks be to God that we have his laws written in our hearts! We have his laws within to guide us. And when we were the servants of sin and sin abounded – praise God, Grace did much more abound.

Romans 6:1-4 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Romans 6:6-13 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Jehovah was to both Israel and Judah – Aholah and Aholibah, a jealous God – a consuming fire? Is he not to us? Indeed, he is!