

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel
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The Book of Ezekiel

Message Twenty-Seven

God's Grace –Jerusalem's Unfaithfulness

March 6, 2016

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THE HARLOT BECOMES A CONVICT

Ezekiel 16:15-34

¹⁵But thou didst trust in thy beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy whoredoms on every one that passed by; his it was. ¹⁶And thou didst take of thy garments, and madest for thee high places decked with divers colors, and playedst the harlot upon them: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so. ¹⁷Thou didst also take thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest for thee images of men, and didst play the harlot with them; ¹⁸and thou tookest thy broided garments, and coveredst them, and didst set mine oil and mine incense before them. ¹⁹My bread also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou didst even set it before them for a sweet savor; and thus it was, saith the Lord Jehovah. ²⁰Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Were thy whoredoms a small matter, ²¹that thou hast slain my children, and delivered them up, in causing them to pass through the fire unto them? ²²And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast weltering in thy blood (ASV, 1901).

THE QUEEN BECOMES A HARLOT

Ezekiel 16:15

¹⁵But thou didst trust in thy beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy whoredoms on every one that passed by; his it was (ASV, 1901).

This section of the parable begins with the success and beauty of the “Queen” which is a reference to the blessings under the time of king Solomon. God says, “*But thou didst trust in thy beauty.*” Israel had wealth, culture and beauty because she had God. While outwardly brilliant a society may be inwardly corrupt. This was the case with the old heathen nations and where America is heading. Civilized wickedness means elaborate and creative wickedness. It shows up in the cessation of moral behavior to the point these practices become law. This was the case with all nations who fell from some greatness. We see it in the histories of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Sin became the norm and it brought them down. The Jews knew that their blessings came from God. Israel was supposed to be a light to the surrounding nations (Deuteronomy 4:6-8) but Instead of trusting in God alone she became narcissistic and thought she had achieved all her greatness by herself. Solomon initiated alliances with heathen nations to strengthen his kingdom. It began when

Solomon made a marriage alliance with the Pharaoh of Egypt early in his political career and taking his daughter to be one of his wives (I Kings 3:1). This continued and became the downfall of his empire. It was in direct violation of the Mosaic Law (Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:3-4). God said it would be a snare or trap for them for which God promised His anger would be kindled to the point of destroying them. Once the nearby nations desired the Jews because of the blessings (beauty) they had, the Jews surrendered themselves to the pagans instead of the Jews teaching the pagans about God.

I Kings 11:1-8

Now king Solomon loved many foreign women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites; ²of the nations concerning which Jehovah said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. ³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶And Solomon did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, and went not fully after Jehovah, as did David his father. ⁷Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, in the mount that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the children of Ammon. ⁸And so did he for all his foreign wives, who burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods (ASV, 1901).

Many of Israel's kings after Solomon's lead went after foreign women and alliances to the chagrin of God and His Word. Some examples are listed here.

ASA KING OF JUDAH TRUSTS SYRIA

II Chronicles 16:7-9

⁷And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and hast not relied on Jehovah thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thy hand. ⁸Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge host, with chariots and horsemen exceeding many? yet, because thou didst rely on Jehovah, he delivered them into thy hand. ⁹For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars (ASV, 1901).

AHAB MARRIES THE DAUGHTER OF THE SIDONIANS

I Kings 16:31-33

³¹And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of

Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.³² And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.³³ And Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did yet more to provoke Jehovah, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him (ASV, 1901).

AMAZIAH WORSHIPS THE GODS OF SEIR

II Chronicles 25:14-15

¹⁴Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.¹⁵ Wherefore the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, who said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which have not delivered their own people out of thy hand (ASV, 1901)?

AHAZ BOWS TO ASSYRIA

II Kings 16:7-11

⁷So 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, who rise up against me.⁸ And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of Jehovah, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria (ASV, 1901).

II Chronicles 28:20-21

²⁰And Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not.²¹ For Ahaz took away a portion out of the house of Jehovah, and out of the house of the king and of the princes, and gave it unto the king of Assyria: but it helped him not (ASV, 1901).

The spiritual failure, which God refers to, as harlotry is evident on at least three levels:

1. Political harlotry; which is turning to foreign governments for help and advice.
2. Spiritual harlotry; which is not worshipping God, but going to pagan gods and goddesses, and in effect, worshiping demons (I Corinthians 10: 20).
3. Physical harlotry; is defined as being unfaithful to one's spouse, having sex with strangers, adopting the abominations of sacred prostitution and human sacrifice, forgetting justice, mercy and love.

THE HARLOT IS MAKING HIGH PLACES

Ezekiel 16:16

¹⁶And thou didst take of thy garments, and madest for thee high places decked

with divers colors, and playedst the harlot upon them: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so (ASV, 1901).

High places were areas of worship, which had been elevated above ground or on raised altars in low land such as a valley dedicated to idol worship (Numbers 33:52; Leviticus 26:30) especially among the Moabites (Isaiah 16:12). These shrines often included an altar and a sacred object such as a stone pillar or wooden pole in various shapes, identified with the object of worship (animals, stars and planets, goddesses, as well as fertility deities). They were elaborately adorned. The words in verse 16 imply that the shrines upon the high places were adorned with of many-coloured tapestry, much like that of a Persian carpet, as in II Kings 23:7 where the homosexuals hung ornate tapestries. The hangings were as the harlot women's bed in the Proverbs designed to attract men to her house.

Proverbs 7:16

¹⁶I have spread my couch with carpets of tapestry, With striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt. ¹⁷I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon (ASV, 1901).

This verse closes with essentially saying this is something that should not be done. It is not proper to do this. They should not come to be in this manner.

GOD'S GIFTS GIVEN TO IDOLATRY

Ezekiel 16:17-19

¹⁷Thou didst also take thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest for thee images of men, and didst play the harlot with them; ¹⁸and thou tookest thy brodered garments, and coveredst them, and didst set mine oil and mine incense before them ¹⁹My bread also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou didst even set it before them for a sweet savor; and thus it was, saith the Lord Jehovah. (ASV, 1901).

The very blessings that God had given the Jews they they made into objects of their unnatural raging sexual lust. They made phallic symbols out of gold and silver. Isaiah the prophet mentions autoerotic activity with cast metal phallic objects (Isaiah 57:8). Given Ezekiel's attention to male genitals later and Jerusalem's perverse, insatiable sexuality Jerusalem had given themselves over to sexual idolatry of the worst type. Additional disdain for her God given gifts, she took her embroidered clothes and clothed the metal images of foreign gods and phallic symbols. This practice was known from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and Jerusalem and is essentially just "doing what everyone else does" (II Kings 23:7). In addition, she took the provisions of fine flour, olive oil, and honey and offered it before them (Hosea 2:8) as if these non-gods actually could provide for them as Jehovah God had.

KILLING THE CHILDREN

Ezekiel 16:20-21

²⁰Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Were thy whoredoms a small matter, ²¹that thou hast slain my children, and delivered them up, in causing them to pass through the fire unto them (ASV, 1901).

Worse of all was their offering up their own children as human sacrifices to these idols of stone and wood adorned with jewels and elaborate tapestries. How deluded they had become to kill their own children. The practice gradually came into the nation Israel, and by Ezekiel's time child sacrifice was practiced openly in Jerusalem (II Kings 21:6; Jeremiah 7:30–31; 32:35). He asks, "Was your harlotry not enough that you slaughtered my children and made them pass through the fire for the idols?" In other words, he asks, "Your actions were heartbreaking enough, but did you have to include *our children*, too?" The practice of child sacrifice to the pagan god Molech included a ritualized slaughter followed by burning the bodies to ashes (II Kings 23:10; Leviticus 18:21; 20:2–5). Sometimes they just cast the infants into the red-hot ovens while they were still alive. God calls these children His. This was either the first-born son or one somewhat older who was going to be devoted to God in studying to be a priest.

HOW SOON THEY FORGOT

Ezekiel 16:22

²²And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast weltering in thy blood (ASV, 1901).

They did not remember all the acts of kindness that the great God of the Universe had given to them. He picked them out of the world's population and demonstrated by them what He would do if the world would only turn to Him in love and obedience. He was kind to them in Egypt. Even though He knew what they would do to Him in disobedience He brought them out of Egypt and into the promise land. The spiritual adultery, which characterizes the end of the Church age, is even greater than that of Jerusalem. This is worldwide and after the Messiah has been here offering salvation. The apostasy of ancient Israel is less than the present rising of the final apostasy in which Satan's man and masterpiece will demand and receive the worship, which belongs to the Lord. Antichrist, yet to come, is apparent in our day by the ultra prideful leaders who embody the man of sin. When he arrives it will be the consummation of the greatest departure from God and defiance of God the world has ever seen. And therefore the coming judgment will also be greater than what the Jews suffered.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE HARLOT BECOMES A CONVICT CONTINUED

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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