

Jerusalem, the Bride
Ezekiel 16:1-14

Main Point:

Be amazed by the life-giving compassion, loving commitment, and lavish generosity of your Heavenly Husband.

1. Like an abandoned baby, you were once helpless and hopeless.
2. But, in His compassion, God came to your rescue and gave you life.
3. Not only that, He lovingly entered into a covenant of marriage with you.
4. As His bride, He generously provides you with all that you need, and so much more.

Christopher Wright “Ezekiel's point is not ethno-geographical, but theological. Israel's own origins were just as pagan as any of the nations they so despised. They have no special claim on God ...”

Matthew Henry “It is a very apt illustration of the miserable condition of all the children of men by nature ... We were shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin ...”

Christopher Wright "The picture of utter human weakness, need and vulnerability that the abandoned newborn baby evokes emphasizes that the people of God ... owe nothing of their status to their own capacity or achievement.”

Iain Duguid "The word of the Lord was all it took to turn the field from a place of death ... to a place of life ...”

Ephesians 2:4-5 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ... (NKJV)

Matthew Henry “By converting grace, he says to the soul, *Live.*”

Matthew Henry “Those to whom God gives spiritual life he takes into covenant with himself; by that covenant they become his subjects and servants, which intimates their duty - [as well as] his portion, his treasure, which intimates their privilege ...”

Ephesians 5:30-32 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (NKJV)

Matthew Henry “Sanctified souls are truly beautiful ... But God must have all the glory, for they were by nature deformed and polluted, and, whatever comeliness they have, it is that which God has put upon them ...”

Christopher Wright “Without God's redeeming gift of life – an abandoned fetus. Through God's transforming generosity – a resplendent queen. Ezekiel's contrasting images paint the colors of God's grace very boldly ...”