

Ezekiel 16:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.

Analysis

At every head of the way...and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by—The imagery intensifies: rosh kol-derekh (ראש כל־דֶּרֶךְ, head of every road) describes Jerusalem positioning herself like a prostitute at major intersections. **Opened thy feet** is a euphemism for sexual availability (see Ruth 3:4, Isaiah 7:20). The Hebrew taznuth (תַּזְנוּת, whoredoms) appears again, emphasizing serial, indiscriminate spiritual adultery.

Hast made thy beauty to be abhorred (ta'av, תִּתְעַב, ta'av)—Jerusalem perverted God-given beauty (v. 14) into something detestable. Beauty without holiness becomes obscenity. The principle applies beyond sexual ethics: gifts divorced from the Giver become idols. Jerusalem's covenant privilege, meant to attract nations to YHWH (Deuteronomy 4:6-8), became international scandal.

Historical Context

The metaphor reflects ancient Near Eastern prostitution practices, where cult prostitutes (qedeshah) served at pagan shrines, and common prostitutes solicited at city gates and road junctions. Proverbs 7:10-23 uses identical imagery. Ezekiel's audience would immediately grasp the shamelessness described—public, brazen, shameless apostasy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. In what ways might your public testimony be contradicting your claimed allegiance to Christ?
2. How can God-given beauty (talents, personality, physical appearance) be perverted into something that dishonors Him?

Interlinear Text

אֵל H413	כָּל H3605	רֹאשׁ at every head H7218	דֶּרֶךְ of the way H1870	בָּנִית Thou hast built H1129	רָמָתְךָ thy high place H7413	וַתִּתְעַבֵּי to be abhorred H8581
אֶת H853	וַיַּפֵּיךָ and hast made thy beauty H3308	וַתִּפְשֹׁקֵי and hast opened H6589	אֶת H853	בְּגָלֶיךָ thy feet H7272	לְכָל H3605	
עוֹבֵר to every one that passed by H5674	וַתִּרְבֵּי and multiplied H7235	אֶת H853	תַּזְנוּתֶיךָ thy whoredoms H8457			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:2 (Parallel theme): Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

Ezekiel 16:31 (Parallel theme): In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;

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