

# 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

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**At every head of the way...and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by**—The imagery intensifies: *rosh kol-derekh* (רֹאשׁ כָּל־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* (תָּנוּת, whoredoms) appears again, emphasizing serial, indiscriminate spiritual adultery.

**Hast made thy beauty to be abhorred** (ta'av, תָּאַעַב)—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

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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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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וְתִתְعַבֵּ	רָמַת	גַּן	בְּנִית	לְכָה	רַאשׁ	כָּל	אֶל	וְתִתְעַבֵּ
H413	H3605	at every head	of the way	Thou hast built	thy high place	to be abhorred		
	H7218		H1870	H1129		H7413		H8581
אַתָּה	וְתִתְפְּשַׁק	וְתִתְפְּשַׁק	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	בְּגַל	לְכָל	לְכָל	
H853	and hast made thy beauty	and hast opened	H853	H853	thy feet	H3605		
	H3308		H6589	H7272				
עֹזֶב	וְתִרְבַּב	וְתִרְבַּב	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	פְּנִזְנּוֹתֶךָ			
to every one that passed by	and multiplied	H853	H853	thy whoredoms				
H5674	H7235		H8457					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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