

Ezekiel 16:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.

Analysis

Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable—The Hebrew *lo sav'at* (לא שָׁבַעַת, not satisfied) exposes the insatiable nature of idolatry. After Egyptian alliances failed, Jerusalem pursued Assyrian treaties (2 Kings 16:7-9). **Yet couldest not be satisfied** repeats the indictment, emphasizing that false gods never fulfill—they only multiply cravings.

This reveals idolatry's core deception: created things promise satisfaction but deliver addiction. Augustine's confession applies: 'Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.' Jerusalem's serial political adultery mirrors modern therapeutic culture—when one ideology, relationship, or substance fails to satisfy, the idolater moves to the next. Only Christ satisfies: 'Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst' (John 4:14).

Historical Context

Ahaz submitted to Assyria as a vassal (2 Kings 16:7-18), even altering the temple to match Assyrian patterns. Later kings oscillated between pro-Assyrian and pro-Egyptian policies, demonstrating the political instability that mirrored spiritual adultery. By Ezekiel's time, these alliances had proven catastrophic—Assyria destroyed the Northern Kingdom, and Babylon would destroy Judah.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What patterns of serial idolatry (pursuing satisfaction from created things) characterize your life—relationships, achievements, possessions?
2. How has your pursuit of satisfaction from things other than God left you more empty and craving rather than fulfilled?

Interlinear Text

תִּתְצַנֵּן יְמִינָה	אֵל	בְּנֵי	מִבְּלַת	אֲשֶׁר וּ
Thou hast played the whore	H413	also with the Assyrians	H804	because
H2181		H1121		H1115

שְׁבֻעָתֶךָ	תִּתְצַנֵּן יְמִינָה	לֹא יָגַד מִ
thou wast unsatiable	Thou hast played the whore	H1571 H3808
H7646	H2181	

שְׁבֻעָתֶךָ:
with them and yet couldest not be satisfied
H7654

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 16:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 2:36 (Parallel theme): Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.

Jeremiah 2:18 (Parallel theme): And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?

Hosea 10:6 (Parallel theme): It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

2 Chronicles 28:23 (Parallel theme): For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.