

Ezekiel 16:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman;

Analysis

How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman. God's diagnosis: "**How weak is thine heart**" (literally, "how sick/faint is your heart"). The Hebrew amelah (אֲמֵלָה) suggests exhaustion, sickness, feebleness. Sin doesn't strengthen; it enfeebles. Jerusalem's pursuit of idols and foreign alliances revealed not strength but pathetic weakness—desperate grasping for security, meaning, and identity apart from God.

The phrase "**imperious whorish woman**" translates esheth zonah shaletet (אֲשֶׁר־זֹנָה שָׁלֵטֶת), literally "a dominating harlot-wife." This is not a passive victim but an aggressive predator—shameless, controlling, insatiable. The shocking language (appropriate for prophetic confrontation) exposes spiritual adultery's true character. Most prostitutes work for hire, but Israel's sin was worse: she paid her lovers (v. 33-34)! This inverts natural order, revealing the depth of degradation. The diagnosis remains accurate: the unregenerate heart is not strong and independent but weak, sick, enslaved to sin, desperately seeking from idols what only God provides.

Historical Context

Judah's political history exemplifies this "weak heart." Rather than trusting God, they constantly sought alliances: with Egypt against Assyria, with Babylon against

Egypt, playing great powers against each other (Isaiah 30:1-7, 31:1-3, Jeremiah 2:18, 36:37). Each alliance required religious compromise—adopting the ally's gods. This wasn't shrewd diplomacy but spiritual prostitution born of unbelief. The prophets consistently condemned these faithless alliances, calling Judah to trust Yahweh alone. The Babylonian exile (586 BC) proved their political maneuvering futile—God's way was the only path to security.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. In what areas does your heart prove 'weak' by seeking security, identity, or fulfillment from sources other than God?
2. How does the image of an 'imperious whorish woman' confront our self-perception as autonomous and strong when we're actually enslaved to sin?

Interlinear Text

בְּעִשְׂתָּךְ יְהוָה אָדָן נָאָם לְבַתְּךָ אַמְלָה מִתְּהִ H4100 H535 H3826 H5002 H136 H3069 H6213

How weak is thine heart saith the Lord GOD seeing thou doest

שְׁלֹטָתֶךָ זֹנֶה אַשְׁרָה מַעַשְׂךָ אֵלֶּה כֹּל אַתָּה H853 H3605 H428 H4639 H802 H2181 H7986

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Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Isaiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Isaiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Proverbs 9:13 (Parallel theme): A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

Jeremiah 4:22 (Parallel theme): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

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