

# 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

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**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* (אִמְלָה) 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* (אִשְׁתֵּי זִנָּה שְׁלֵטֶת), 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

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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

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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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מָה	חַלְוָה	לִבְּתֶךָ	נֹאֵם	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	בְּעִשְׂוֹתֶךָ
H4100	<b>How weak</b>	<b>is thine heart</b>	<b>saith</b>	<b>the Lord</b>	<b>GOD</b>	<b>seeing thou doest</b>
	H535	H3826	H5002	H136	H3069	H6213
אֵת	כָּל	אֲלֵהֶם	מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם	אִשָּׁה	זוֹנָה	שֶׁלֹּטָתָהּ
H853	H3605	H428	<b>all these things the work</b>	<b>woman</b>	<b>whorish</b>	<b>of an imperious</b>
			H4639	H802	H2181	H7986

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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