

# Ezekiel 16:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.

## Analysis

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**Every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee**—the Hebrew mashal (מָשָׁל) means both proverb and taunt-song. Jerusalem, once exalted as God's city, will become a byword of shame among nations. **As is the mother, so is her daughter** establishes the principle of inherited corruption and spiritual genealogy.

This proverbial saying would cut deeply in an honor-shame culture where family reputation was paramount. The proverb implies that Jerusalem's wickedness isn't aberrational but consistent with her pagan origins (v. 3—'thy father was an Amorite, thy mother a Hittite'). Despite God's adoption and covenant grace, Jerusalem reverted to her Canaanite roots, validating the adage that she was truly her mother's daughter in idolatrous practice.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern culture placed enormous weight on genealogy and inherited character traits. Proverbs functioned as oral tradition preserving communal wisdom and also as public mockery. For Jerusalem to become the subject of such a proverb represented ultimate social degradation—from God's chosen city to object lesson in apostasy.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What 'proverbs' or patterns from your spiritual heritage do you need to break through grace?
2. How does the reality of spiritual inheritance challenge us to live worthy of our adoption as God's children?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנֵּה כָּל  
H2009 H3605

יִמְשׁ לְ  
**Behold every one that useth proverbs**  
H4911

עַל יוֹ.  
H5921

יִמְשׁ לְ  
**Behold every one that useth proverbs**  
H4911

לְאִמֹּר  
**against thee saying**  
H559

כְּאִמֹּת הָ  
**As is the mother**  
H517

בְּתָתָהּ:  
**so is her daughter**  
H1323

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 24:13** (Parallel theme): As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.