

Ezekiel 16:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.

Analysis

Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations—the initial negative creates expectation of commendation, which the verse immediately subverts: **but, as if that were a very little thing** (וְזֶה עַזְעַז, kim'at qat—'as a trifling thing'). This rhetorical structure emphasizes Jerusalem's comparative wickedness.

Thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways—the Hebrew shachat (שַׁחַת, corrupted) means ruined, destroyed, morally perverted. Jerusalem didn't merely imitate Sodom and Samaria; she surpassed them. This hyperbolic comparison functions to shock Jerusalem out of self-righteous complacency. The city that possessed God's temple, law, prophets, and covenant exceeded in wickedness cities with none of these advantages. Greater light brings greater responsibility and, when rejected, greater condemnation (Luke 12:48).

Historical Context

By Ezekiel's time (590s BC), Jerusalem had witnessed Samaria's destruction (722 BC) yet persisted in identical sins: syncretistic worship, alliances with pagan nations, social injustice, and false prophecy. Despite possessing the Davidic dynasty, Solomonic temple, prophetic tradition, and Mosaic law—advantages Samaria and Sodom lacked—Jerusalem's behavior was comparatively worse given her privileges.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual privilege without obedience increase rather than decrease our guilt?
2. In what areas might we be 'corrupted more' than those with less biblical knowledge?

Interlinear Text

עָשָׂה יְתִי וּבַתּוֹעֲבֹתָתֶיהָ |
בְּלֹא קָתָת | וְבַתּוֹעֲבֹתָתֶיהָ |
דְּרָכָיו: | וְבַתּוֹעֲבֹתָתֶיהָ |
אַל אַל כִּי | וְבַתּוֹעֲבֹתָתֶיהָ |
H3808 after their ways H1870 Yet hast thou not walked H1980 H8441 after their abominations H6213 nor done

בְּכָל מְהֵרָה | וְתַשְׁחַת תִּי | תַּשְׁחַת תִּי | בְּכָל מְהֵרָה |
כְּמַעַן | קְרַט | וְתַשְׁחַת תִּי | וְתַשְׁחַת תִּי | H3605
little but as if that were a very thing thou wast corrupted more than they H4592 H6985 H7843 H2004

דְּרָכָיו:
after their ways
H1870

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 21:9 (Parallel theme): But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

Ezekiel 16:48 (Parallel theme): As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

Ezekiel 16:51 (Parallel theme): Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.

1 Kings 16:31 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

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