

# 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

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**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** (כְּמִטְעַף קִמְאֵת, 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 (שָׁחַת, 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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וְלֹא	אֲחֲרֵי דְרָכֵיהֶם:	הֲלֹא כָתָה	וּבְתוֹעֲבוֹתֶיהָ	עָשָׂה יְתִי
H3808	after their ways	Yet hast thou not walked	after their abominations	nor done
	H1870	H1980	H8441	H6213
כְּמַעַט	ט	וּמִשָּׁחַ תִּי	יָמָה	בְּכָל
little	but as if that were a very	thing thou wast corrupted	more than they	
H4592	H6985	H7843	H2004	H3605

אֲחֲרֵי דְרָכֵיהֶם:

after their ways

H1870

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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