

# Ezekiel 16:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins**—a devastating quantitative comparison. Samaria (Northern Kingdom) fell to Assyria in 722 BC for idolatry (2 Kings 17), yet Jerusalem's sins were double. **Thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they**—the Hebrew *ravah* (רָבָה, multiplied) emphasizes abundance and excess.

**And hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done**—the Hebrew *tsadaq* (צָדַק, justified) means declared righteous, vindicated. By exceeding Sodom and Samaria in wickedness, Jerusalem made them appear relatively righteous. This comparative justification functions ironically: Jerusalem's behavior was so egregious that cities destroyed for covenant unfaithfulness seem moderate by comparison. Paul uses similar logic in Romans 2:17-24—Jewish covenant breaking causes Gentiles to blaspheme God's name.

## Historical Context

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Samaria's sins included golden calf worship at Bethel and Dan (1 Kings 12:28-30), Ba'al worship under Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 16:31-33), child sacrifice, and syncretism (2 Kings 17:7-18). Despite witnessing Samaria's destruction as divine

warning, Judah under Manasseh and later kings practiced identical sins plus temple prostitution and Molech worship in the Hinnom Valley.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does our sin 'justify' the wicked by making their behavior seem relatively acceptable?
2. What warnings have we witnessed in others' spiritual failures that we are tempted to ignore?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁמַר וְנִ	כְּחֶצֶי	חַטֹּאתֶיךָ	לֹא	חָטְאָה
Neither hath Samaria	half	of thy sins	H3808	committed
H8111	H2677	H2403		H2398
וַתִּרְבִּי	אֶת	תּוֹעֲבוֹתֶיךָ	מֵהֶן	
but thou hast multiplied	H853	in all thine abominations	more than they	
H7235		H8441	H2007	
וַתִּצְדָּקִי	אֶת	אֲחוֹתֶיךָ	בְּכָל	תּוֹעֲבוֹתֶיךָ
and hast justified	H853	thy sisters	H3605	in all thine abominations
H6663		H269		H8441
עָשִׂיתִי:				
which thou hast done				
H6213				