

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

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 (צָדָק, 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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

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

וְשָׁמַר וְלֹ	נְתָמֵן כִּי	לֹא כָּפָא אָהָה	שָׁפֵט אָהָה
Neither hath Samaria	half	of thy sins	committed
H8111	H2677	H2403	H3808
וְתִרְבֵּב אֶת	תֹּעֲבַת יְהוָה	מִמֶּנּוּ	
but thou hast multiplied	H853	in all thine abominations	more than they
H7235		H8441	H2007
וְתִצְדַּקְתִּי אֶת	בְּכָל אֶחָdotךְ	תֹּעֲבַת יְהוָה	רָאשָׁךְ
and hast justified	H853	thy sisters	H834
H6663	H269	H3605	H8441
עֲשִׂיתִי:			
which thou hast done			
H6213			