

Ezekiel 16:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

Analysis

Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters—Jerusalem had smugly condemned Samaria and Sodom while committing worse sins (cf. Matthew 7:1-5). **Bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they**—the Hebrew kelimmah (כָּלִימָה, shame) denotes public humiliation and disgrace. Jerusalem must now experience the covenant curse of shame she self-righteously pronounced on others.

They are more righteous than thou (תִּהְיֶה מְבָרֵךְ) —a comparative, not absolute, righteousness. Sodom and Samaria remain wicked cities under judgment, but Jerusalem's greater light makes her wickedness comparatively worse. **Yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters**—the Hebrew bosh (בּוֹשׁ, confounded) means ashamed, humiliated. Jerusalem's self-righteous judging while exceeding in wickedness brings double shame: for her sins and for her hypocrisy.

Historical Context

First-century Pharisees exhibited identical self-righteous judgment while transgressing God's law (Matthew 23). Jesus's parable of the Pharisee and tax

collector (Luke 18:9-14) and his confrontation with the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11) illustrate the principle of this verse—those who judge others while sinning themselves receive greater condemnation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you tempted to judge others while committing 'more abominable' sins yourself?
2. How does understanding that 'they are more righteous than thou' function to humble self-righteousness?

Interlinear Text

פָּלַת אֲשֶׁר כָּלֹמֶת גַּם וְשָׁא אֲתָּן גַּם
Thou also which hast judged also and bear thine own shame
H6419 H834 H3639 H5375 H859 H1571

הַתְּעַבְּתָ בְּתָ אֲשֶׁר בְּחַטֹּאת יְהִי אֲחִיוֹתָךְ
that thou hast committed more abominable
H8581 H834 H2403 H269 thy sisters for thy sins

אֲתָּן גַּם מִמְּנָה בְּצִדְקָתְךָ בְּצִדְקָתְךָ בְּצִדְקָתְךָ
H1571 H859 H4480 H6663 than they in that thou hast justified

כָּלֹמֶת גַּם וְשָׁא בְּ וְשָׁא
thou yea be thou confounded also and bear thine own shame
H3639 H5375 H954

אֲחִיוֹתָךְ
thy sisters
H269 H6663 in that thou hast justified