

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* (כְּלִמָּה, 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 (צַדִּיקֵי מִמֶּנִּי)—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* (בושׁ, 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

גַּם	אֵתְּ	וְשָׂא יָ	כָּל־מִתְּ	אֲשֶׁר	פָּלַלְתָּ
H1571	H859	also and bear	thine own shame	H834	Thou also which hast judged
		H5375	H3639		H6419

אֲחֵיוֹתָיִךְ	בְּחַטָּאתֶיךָ	אֲשֶׁר	הִתְעַבְתָּ בָּתְּ
thy sisters	for thy sins	H834	that thou hast committed more abominable
H269	H2403		H8581

יֵמֶה י	בְּצַדִּיקְתָּ	מִמֶּנִּי	וְגַם	אֵתְּ
than they	in that thou hast justified	H4480	H1571	H859
H2004	H6663			

ב וְשִׁי	וְשָׂא יָ	כָּל־מִתְּ
than thou yea be thou confounded	also and bear	thine own shame
H954	H5375	H3639

בְּצַדִּיקְתָּ	אֲחֵיוֹתָיִךְ
in that thou hast justified	thy sisters
H6663	H269