

Ezekiel 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

Analysis

This prophetic formula introduces Ezekiel's most graphic allegory depicting Israel and Judah as adulterous sisters. The shocking sexual imagery serves to reveal the heinousness of spiritual adultery—covenant unfaithfulness toward God. Idolatry is consistently portrayed as spiritual prostitution throughout Scripture (Hosea 1-3, Jeremiah 3), emphasizing the intimate, exclusive nature of covenant relationship.

Historical Context

Spoken during Babylonian exile (circa 590 BC), this oracle explained why both kingdoms fell. The northern kingdom (Israel) was destroyed by Assyria in 722 BC; Judah was currently facing Babylonian conquest.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the marriage metaphor for God's covenant help you understand the seriousness of spiritual unfaithfulness?
2. What 'idols' compete for the exclusive devotion you owe to Christ?

Interlinear Text

לְאַחֲרֵי: אֶל וְיָהִי הָדָבָר וְיִהְיֶה ' ^{וְיִהְיֶה}

H1961 The word of the LORD H413 came again unto me saying

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