

# Ezekiel 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיָּהִי י'	דְּבַר	יְהוָה ה'	אֵלַי י'	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	<b>The word</b>	<b>of the LORD</b>	H413	<b>came again unto me saying</b>
	H1697	H3068		H559

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