

Ezekiel 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way,

Analysis

Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way acknowledges both kingdoms followed identical paths to destruction. The divine 'I saw' (Hebrew *va'ere*) indicates judicial observation leading to verdict. Both kingdoms, despite different circumstances and additional warnings given to Judah, chose apostasy. This demonstrates that sin is not primarily environmental but dispositional—changed circumstances don't change hearts. Only divine regeneration transforms the will. Both kingdoms prove Paul's later summary: 'There is none righteous, no, not one' (Romans 3:10). Advantage, privilege, and warning cannot overcome total depravity apart from grace.

Historical Context

Despite theological advantages—Davidic dynasty, Solomonic temple, prophetic ministries of Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and others—Judah's trajectory matched Israel's. Advantages without heart transformation prove worthless. The same patterns of alliance-seeking, religious syncretism, and covenant violation characterized both kingdoms.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What advantages or privileges have we relied upon while neglecting heart transformation?
2. How does the persistence of sin across different circumstances reveal its deep roots?
3. What does it take to break generational and cultural patterns of sin?

Interlinear Text

לְשִׁתִּים:	אָמַר	נָסַתָּה אָה	כִּי	אָאָרָא
Then I saw	H3588	that she was defiled	way	one

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