

Ezekiel 23:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermillion,

Analysis

And that she increased her whoredoms marks escalation—Judah didn't maintain Israel's level but exceeded it. For when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermillion indicates new forms of idolatry. Wall paintings in vivid red pigment depicted Babylonian gods and rituals. This verse captures how visual media stimulates desire and worship. Judah saw attractive images and lusted for what they represented. Modern parallels abound: advertising, entertainment, social media all shape desire through images. What we behold shapes what we become (2 Corinthians 3:18). Judah gazed at Babylon's glory and wanted it, demonstrating the eye as sin's gateway.

Historical Context

Babylonian art featured prominent wall reliefs in brilliant colors, especially red vermillion. As Babylonian power grew (post-626 BC under Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar), such imagery became familiar to Judeans through trade, diplomacy, and envoys. King Jehoiakim likely saw such images during his vassalage to Babylon.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do images and media shape our desires and spiritual direction?
2. What 'wall paintings' of worldly success and glory tempt us today?
3. How does visual stimulation bypass rational discernment to capture our hearts?

Interlinear Text

וְתִּזְבַּח	אֶל	פְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁאַל	מִמֶּלֶךְ	הָאָנָשִׁים
And that she increased	H413	her whoredoms	for when she saw	H376	pourtrayed
H3254		H8457	H7200		H2707
עַל	צְלָמִים	כָּשָׁדִים	מִלְּקָרִים	בְּשָׂרָה:	
H5921	upon the wall	the images	of the Chaldeans	pourtrayed	with vermillion
H7023	H6754	H3778	H2710	H8350	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 8:10 (Parallel theme): So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

Jeremiah 22:14 (Parallel theme): That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermillion.