

Ezekiel 23:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:

Analysis

Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look upon details military and royal splendor attracting Judah. After the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity identifies authentic Babylonian warriors. The phrase 'princes to look upon' (mar'eh—appearance) emphasizes visual appeal—they looked impressive, powerful, successful. Judah's attraction was aesthetic before political. Sin's progression: visual attraction, emotional desire, intellectual rationalization, volitional choice, behavioral pattern, enslaving habit (James 1:14-15). Eyes are sin's gateway (Genesis 3:6; Joshua 7:21; 2 Samuel 11:2; Matthew 5:28-29), requiring vigilant guarding.

Historical Context

Babylon's Neo-Babylonian Empire (626-539 BC) represented the era's most sophisticated civilization. Nebuchadnezzar II's reign showcased magnificent architecture (Ishtar Gate, Hanging Gardens), advanced military, and extensive wealth—all visible through diplomatic contact and increasingly frequent interaction with Judah.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does attraction to worldly power and beauty lead to spiritual compromise?
2. What role do our eyes play in the progression toward sin?
3. How can we guard our hearts by guarding what we see and desire?

Interlinear Text

חָגוּרֵי י	אֵז וֹר	בְּמַתְנֵיהֶם	סְרוּחֵי י	טְבוּלִים	בְּאִשֵּׁיהֶם
Girded	with girdles	upon their loins	exceeding	in dyed attire	upon their heads
H2289	H232	H4975	H5628	H2871	H7218
מֵרָא הֶ	שָׁלֹשׁ יָם	כָּלֵם	דָּמ וְתֵ	בְנֵי	בָּבֶל
to look to	all of them princes	H3605	after the manner	of the Babylonians	H894
H4758	H7991		H1823	H1121	
כְּשֶׁדִּיָּם	אֶרֶץ	מִלְדָּתָם:			
of Chaldea	the land	of their nativity			
H3778	H776	H4138			

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