

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

בְּ אֲשִׁירָה מִצְבָּוְלִים סְרוּחַ בְּמִתְנִיחָה מִזְרָחַ וּרְגָגָרַ

Girded with girdles upon their loins exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads

H2289 H232 H4975 H5628 H2871 H7218

בְּבָבָל בְּנִי דָם וְתִּכְלֵל יְמִינֵי הַמְּרָאָה שֶׁלֶשׁ יְמִינֵי נְשָׁלָשׁ יְמִינֵי

to look to all of them princes after the manner of the Babylonians

H4758 H7991 H3605 H1823 H1121 H894

מִזְדְּקָמָה כְּשָׁדָה יְמִינֵי אֶצְבָּעָה יְמִינֵי

of Chaldea the land of their nativity

H3778 H776 H4138

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