

Ezekiel 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea.

Analysis

And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them captures the immediacy of desire—sight triggered attraction without deliberation. And sent messengers unto them into Chaldea shows transition from attraction to pursuit. Judah initiated contact with Babylon—not Babylonian aggression but Judean infatuation. King Hezekiah's reception of Babylonian envoys (2 Kings 20:12-19) marked this turning point. Isaiah warned that alliance would bring destruction, but Judah persisted. The speed from seeing to sending, from attraction to action, demonstrates covetousness's power. It allows no time for wisdom, prayer, or caution. Impulsive action driven by desire always ends badly, requiring intentional delay between stimulus and response.

Historical Context

After Hezekiah showed Babylon's envoys (from Merodach-baladan) all his treasures (circa 703 BC), Isaiah prophesied that everything would be carried to Babylon and Hezekiah's descendants would serve in Babylon's palace (2 Kings 20:16-18)—precisely fulfilled in 597 and 586 BC. Hezekiah's pride and political calculation initiated Judah's fatal attraction to Babylon.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does immediate gratification of desire short-circuit wisdom and discernment?
2. What prevents us from pausing between attraction and action?
3. How might slowing down help us resist temptation?

Interlinear Text

she doted	H5921	לְמַרְאָה	הָ	עַלְיָהּ	מִ	וַתַּעֲגֹב	עִינֵּי	יְ	בָּ
	H5689								
upon them and sent	H7971	אֶלָּיָהּ	מִ	מֶלֶךְ	יְ	וַתִּשְׁלַח	כָּלְדִּיםָהּ	בְּ	חַלְדֵּא
	H4397	messengers		H413			unto them into Chaldea		H3778

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:29 (Parallel theme): Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.

Matthew 5:28 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.