

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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וַתִּעַגְבֹּר she doted H5689	עָלֶיהָ H5921	לְמַרְאֶה And as soon as she saw H4758	עֵינֵי יָהּ them with her eyes H5869
וַתִּשְׁלַח upon them and sent H7971	מַלְאָכָיו messengers H4397	אֵלֶיהָ H413	בְּשָׂדֵימָהּ unto them into Chaldea H3778

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.