

Ezekiel 23:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them.

Analysis

And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love describes Judah receiving what she pursued. The phrase 'bed of love' drips with irony—what she thought would be romantic alliance became violent violation. And they defiled her with their whoredom indicates the very relationship Judah sought corrupted her. Babylonian alliance required religious compromise—acknowledging Babylonian gods, adopting cultic practices. And her mind was alienated from them marks the turning point: after experiencing what she desired, Judah became disillusioned. But alienation came too late—defilement was permanent, consequences unavoidable. Sin promises satisfaction but delivers emptiness. We pursue eagerly, then recoil in disgust once possessing it—but damage is done.

Historical Context

Judah's alliance with Babylon began positively but soured as Babylonian dominance became oppressive. King Jehoiakim rebelled after three years of vassalage (2 Kings 24:1), triggering Babylonian invasion. What seemed politically and economically advantageous became destructive. The pattern repeated under Zedekiah, whose rebellion brought final judgment (2 Kings 24-25).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why do sinful pursuits promise satisfaction but deliver disillusionment?
2. How does God sometimes grant our sinful desires to reveal their emptiness?
3. What should we do when we realize our chosen path has defiled us?

Interlinear Text

אֵל יְהוָה וַיָּבֹא	בְּנֵי	בָּבֶל	לְמִשְׁכַּב ב	יָד יָם
came	And the		to her into the bed	of love
H935	H413	H894	H4904	H1730
וַתִּטְמָא	אוֹתָהּ	בְּתִזְנוּתָם	וַתִּטְמָא	בָּהֶם
and she was polluted	her	her with their whoredom	and she was polluted	
H2930	H853	H8457	H2930	H0
וַתִּקַּע	בְּפֶשַׁעָהּ	מֵהֶם:		
was alienated	with them and her mind			
H3363	H5315	H1992		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 23:22 (Love): Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side;

Ezekiel 23:28 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated:

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