

Ezekiel 23:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

Analysis

Yet she multiplied her whoredoms shows divine alienation didn't stop Jerusalem's pursuit of idols—it accelerated it. In calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt means Jerusalem romanticized origins, returning to Egypt for alliance. When God's presence withdraws, humans don't naturally turn back but plunge deeper into sin. Jeremiah's contemporaries fled to Egypt despite prophetic warning (Jeremiah 42-43). Egypt represented the past, the familiar, the originally corrupting influence. In crisis, we regress to formative patterns, even destructive ones. Apart from grace, abandonment by God produces not repentance but accelerated rebellion—the darkening spiral of Romans 1.

Historical Context

During final years before Jerusalem's fall, Judah's kings (especially Jehoiakim and Zedekiah) vacillated between Babylonian and Egyptian alliances, repeatedly turning to Egypt for military support (Jeremiah 37:5-7; Ezekiel 17:15). This political instability reflected spiritual chaos and refusal to submit to Babylonian dominance as God commanded through Jeremiah.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why do we return to past sins when present circumstances deteriorate?
2. How does divine withdrawal lead to deeper rebellion rather than repentance?
3. What formative influences continue to exert pull during spiritual crisis?

Interlinear Text

וְתַּרְבַּתְּ	הַ	אַתְּ	תִּזְנֹוֹתְּ	יְהִ	לִזְכָּרְ	אַתְּ	יְמִ
Yet she multiplied		H853	her whoredoms		in calling to remembrance	H853	the days
	H7235		H8457		H2142		H3117
בְּעֵזֶרֶת	יְהִ	אֲשֶׁר	נָעָזְבָּה	זָתַתְּ	בְּאֶזְרָה	מִצְרָיִם	
of her youth		H834	wherein she had played the harlot	H2181		H776	of Egypt
	H5271						H4714

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 23:3 (References Egypt): And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.