

Ezekiel 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The phrase 'in their youth' refers to Israel's bondage in Egypt before the Exodus and Sinai covenant. Even in slavery, Israel began adopting Egyptian idolatry (Exodus 32, Joshua 24:14), revealing the depth of human sin and the persistence of spiritual rebellion. This establishes a pattern of unfaithfulness from the very beginning of their national existence.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence confirms Israel absorbed Egyptian religious practices during their 400-year sojourn. The golden calf incident (Exodus 32) reflected Egyptian bull-worship, particularly the Apis bull cult.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritual compromises from your 'youth' (early Christian life) might still influence your walk with God?

2. How does recognizing the depth of your own sin increase appreciation for God's patient grace?

Interlinear Text

וְיָבֹא	בְּנָצְרִים	בְּמִצְרַיִם	בְּנָצְרִים	בְּמִצְרַיִם
And they committed whoredoms	in Egypt	in their youth	in Egypt	in their youth
H2181	H4714	H5271		
וְיָבֹא	מִנְצָרָה	מִנְצָרָה	שְׁדִים	שְׁדִים
And they committed whoredoms	pressed	there were	their breasts	their breasts
H2181	H4600	H7699		H8033
וְיָבֹא	בְּתַזְלִימָה	בְּתַזְלִימָה	בְּתַזְלִימָה	בְּתַזְלִימָה
and there they bruised	the teats	of their virginity	the teats	of their virginity
H6213	H1717	H1331		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 17:7 (Parallel theme): And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

Ezekiel 16:22 (Parallel theme): And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.

Joshua 24:14 (References Egypt): Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.