

Ezekiel 23:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

Analysis

Oholah ('her tent') represents Samaria/Israel, while Oholibah ('my tent is in her') represents Jerusalem/Judah. The names ironically reference the tabernacle—Israel established unauthorized worship at Dan and Bethel (1 Kings 12:26-33), while Judah possessed the true temple but defiled it with idolatry. Both bore sons and daughters, referring to their inhabitants who inherited spiritual adultery.

Historical Context

Jeroboam I established golden calf worship at Dan and Bethel to prevent northern Israelites from returning to Jerusalem for festivals, deliberately violating the first and second commandments for political expediency.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can religious forms exist alongside spiritual adultery in your life?
2. What warnings does this passage give about creating 'convenient' worship that suits personal preferences rather than God's commands?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------|-----|
| וּשְׁמוֹתַי | אֶהְיֶה | הַגָּדוֹלָה | אֶהְיֶה: | אֲחוֹתִי | יָנָה | לִי |
| And the names | is Aholah | the elder | Aholibah | her sister | | |
| H8034 | H170 | H1419 | H172 | H269 | H1961 | H0 |
| וַתֵּלֶךְ | וְהָיוּ | בְנֵי יָם | וּבָנֹת | וּשְׁמוֹתַי | שָׁמַר | וְ |
| and they were | mine and they bare | sons | and daughters | And the names | Samaria | |
| | H3205 | H1121 | H1323 | H8034 | H8111 | |
| אֶהְיֶה | וִירוּשָׁלַם | אֶהְיֶה: | | | | |
| is Aholah | and Jerusalem | Aholibah | | | | |
| H170 | H3389 | H172 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:8 (Parallel theme): Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.