

# Ezekiel 23:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,

## Analysis

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And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far introduces new accusation—soliciting foreign alliances and their religious practices. Unto whom a messenger was sent details active pursuit. And, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments describes preparations like a prostitute adorning herself for clients. The imagery is deliberately provocative—Judah beautified herself to attract foreign powers. Washing, eye-painting (kohl), and jewelry all suggest sexual availability. Applying cosmetics appears repeatedly in contexts of seduction or questionable character (2 Kings 9:30; Jeremiah 4:30). Judah's frantic beautification for foreign allies reveals desperation disguised as sophisticated diplomacy.

## Historical Context

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Judah's diplomacy with Egypt, Babylon, and other powers involved elaborate reception ceremonies. Kings sought to impress foreign envoys with wealth and beauty, hoping to secure advantageous treaties. This diplomatic seduction brought foreign religious influence and compromise, as alliances required acknowledging partners' deities through treaty ceremonies.

## Related Passages

## **Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith**

## **John 3:16 — God's love and salvation**

## Study Questions

1. How do we 'beautify ourselves' to attract worldly approval and alliances?
2. What does our attempt to impress others reveal about spiritual priorities?
3. Why is seeking validation from the world a form of spiritual adultery?

## Interlinear Text

וְאַךְ	בְּ אֹ	לֹאָנָשׁ יִם	שֶׁל וַתִּ	בְּ אֹ	וְאַךְ
And furthermore	H3588	that ye have sent	H376	and lo they came	H935
	H637		H7971		
from far	H834	unto whom a messenger	that ye have sent	אֲלֵיכֶם	וְהַבָּה
	H4801		H4397	H413	H2009
and lo they came	H834	for whom thou didst wash	כַּמְצָת	כַּמְלָא רָ	עֵינֵיךְ
	H935		H7364	לֹאָשׁ רָ	בְּ אֹ
and deckedst thyself with ornaments	H5710		H5716	כַּמְלָא רָ	בְּ אֹ

## Additional Cross-References

**Jeremiah 4:30** (Parallel theme): And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.

**2 Kings 9:30** (Parallel theme): And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

**Isaiah 57:9** (Parallel theme): And thou wentest to the king with ointment, and didst increase thy perfumes, and didst send thy messengers far off, and didst debase thyself even unto hell.