

Ezekiel 23:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

Analysis

And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her describes festive atmosphere—carefree celebration, thoughtless enjoyment. And with the men of the common sort indicates lower-class participants. Were brought Sabeans from the wilderness implies hiring mercenaries or importing foreign entertainment. Which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads details exchange of gifts and honors in covenant-making ceremonies. Treaties were celebrated with gift exchanges, feasting, and mutual honor. But covenant-making with foreigners violated exclusive covenant with Yahweh. Each diplomatic covenant was spiritual adultery, each gift exchange a token of unfaithfulness. The festive tone highlights moral oblivion—they celebrated their adultery, unaware of or unconcerned by their betrayal of God.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern treaty ceremonies involved elaborate rituals, gift exchanges, and feasting. Both parties exchanged tokens of commitment and performed religious rites acknowledging each other's gods. Judah's participation in such ceremonies with pagan nations implicitly acknowledged foreign gods and violated covenant exclusivity, yet was done with festive celebration rather than solemn awareness of covenant breach.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do celebrations of compromise mask spiritual betrayal?
2. What contemporary covenant-makings violate our exclusive devotion to God?
3. Why do we often celebrate precisely what we should mourn?

Interlinear Text

אָנָשִׁים וְלֹא בָּהֶם שְׁלֵמָה בְּמִזְמָן
And a voice of a multitude being at ease H0 H413 H376

מִמְדָבָר סֻבְּאִים מִזְבְּאָה יְמִינָה אֶצְבָּע מִרְבָּה
from the wilderness Sabaeans were brought H120 H935 H5436 H4057

עַל כְּפָא רְתִת צְמִידִים אֶל יְדֵיכֶם יְלִיכֶנֶן
and beautiful crowns upon their hands H413 H3027 H5850 H5921

כְּאַשִּׁיקָן:
upon their heads H7218