

Ezekiel 23:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them?

Analysis

Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries marks Jerusalem as experienced, habitual, persistent in sin. Not a novice or one-time offender but a veteran adulteress, practiced and shameless. Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them? expresses divine astonishment—even now, after all this exposure, will she continue? The question format emphasizes the irrational persistence of sin. Despite exposure, warning, and approaching judgment, Jerusalem continues adultery. This reveals sin's addictive, irrational nature. It persists against self-interest, reason, warning, and consequence. Only grace breaks sin's power; natural consequences alone don't reform the heart. Apart from regeneration, we persist in destroying ourselves despite every rational and experiential reason to stop.

Historical Context

By Ezekiel's time, Judah had centuries of idolatry, multiple warnings from prophets (Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah), the example of Israel's fall (722 BC), and current exile of elites (597 BC). Yet rebellion continued. Those remaining in Jerusalem persisted in false confidence and idolatry despite overwhelming evidence of God's displeasure. Irrationality of sin is starkly demonstrated.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What makes sin persist despite clear warnings and consequences?
2. Why are external pressures insufficient to produce lasting change?
3. What does sin's irrational persistence teach about the necessity of regeneration?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲמַר	לְבַלָּה	נְאוּפִים	עָתָה	יִזְנֶה
Then said	I unto her that was old	in adulteries	Will they now commit	
H559	H1087	H5004	H6258	H2181
וְהָיָה	תַּזְנוּתָּהָ			
whoredoms				
H8457	H1931			