

Ezekiel 23:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

Analysis

Yet they went in unto her strengthens the metaphor—despite everything, her lovers still came to her. As they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot makes explicit that professional prostitution is the model, not seduced innocence. Jerusalem is not victim but willing participant, indeed active pursuer. So went they in unto Oholah and unto Oholibah, the lewd women emphasizes both sisters' identical character. Lewd (zimmah) denotes premeditated depravity, not impulsive sin. This is calculated, commercial, shameless immorality—selling themselves for political advantage. The shift from seduced victim to commercial prostitute represents moral descent. Initially corrupted by others, they became corrupting influences themselves, actively pursuing evil. This is apostasy's progression from tempted to tempter.

Historical Context

Judah's foreign policy had become purely mercenary and opportunistic. She played Assyria against Babylon, Egypt against both, seeking maximum advantage with no moral principle. This geopolitical prostitution brought ruin. The cynical realpolitik destroyed rather than preserved the nation, as political expediency divorced from moral principle always does.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does victimhood transition into perpetration?
2. What is the difference between being tempted and actively seeking evil?
3. How do we recognize when we've become corrupting influences rather than corrupted innocents?

Interlinear Text

בָּ אִו	אֶל יְהִ	בָּ אִו	אֶל	אִשָּׁת	
Yet they went in	H413	Yet they went in	H413	unto a woman	
H935		H935		H802	
זֹנֶה הִ	כִּי	בָּ אִו	אֶל	אֶהֱלָה	וְאֶל
that playeth the harlot	H3651	Yet they went in	H413	unto Aholah	H413
H2181		H935		H170	
אֶהֱלִיבָה	אִשָּׁת	הַזֵּמָה:			
and unto Aholibah	unto a woman	the lewd			
H172	H802	H2154			