

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

בְּ אֹלֶּה	אֲלֵי	בְּ אֹלֶּה	אֲלֵי	אֲשֶׁר
Yet they went in	H413	Yet they went in	H413	unto a woman

זָוֶן הַ	כִּי	בְּ אֹוֶן	אַל	אַבְלָה	אַל
that playeth the harlot	H3651	Yet they went in	H413	unto Aholah	H413

בָּזָבָה:	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר
the lewd	unto a woman	unto a woman	unto a woman
and unto Aholibah	H4172	H802	H2154

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