

Ezekiel 23:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.

Analysis

Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt exposes the persistence of idolatrous patterns across centuries. From Egypt through wilderness, conquest, judges, and monarchy—Israel never fully repented. The root problem wasn't environment but heart corruption. For in her youth they lay with her emphasizes Egypt's formative influence. Early spiritual compromises become ingrained patterns resistant to change. They bruised the breasts of her virginity repeats crude imagery to hammer home total corruption from national adolescence. God's people were violated by idolatry from their origins, establishing habits that persisted throughout history despite multiple reformation attempts.

Historical Context

Despite the Exodus, golden calf incident (Exodus 32), and repeated calls to put away foreign gods (Joshua 24:14, 23), Israel retained syncretistic tendencies throughout her history. Excavations of Israelite sites reveal Egyptian religious artifacts across all periods, confirming persistent Egyptian influence on Israelite religion.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What early spiritual influences still shape our patterns of thought and behavior?
2. How can deeply ingrained sinful habits be broken and transformed?
3. Why is superficial reformation insufficient without heart transformation?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	תְּזִנוֹתֶיהָ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	לֹא	עָזָבָהּ	כִּי	אוֹתָהּ
H853	she her whoredoms	brought from Egypt	H3808	Neither left	H3588	H854
	H8457	H4714		H5800		
וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ	בְּנְעוּרֶיהָ	וְהִיא	עָשׂוּ	וַיִּדְּבְּ		
they lay	for in her youth	H1992	with her and they bruised	the breasts		
H7901	H5271		H6213	H1717		
בְּתוֹלָתָהּ	וַיִּשְׁפֹּךְ	תְּזִנוֹתֶיהָ	עָלֶיהָ:			
of her virginity	and poured	she her whoredoms	H5921			
H1331	H8210	H8457				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 32:4 (References Egypt): And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 23:19 (References Egypt): Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 23:3 (References Egypt): And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

1 Kings 12:28 (References Egypt): Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

2 Kings 17:16 (Parallel theme): And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

2 Kings 10:29 (Parallel theme): Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Beth-el, and that were in Dan.

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