

# Ezekiel 23:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers,  
into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted.

## Analysis

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Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians declares God's sovereign judgment through historical process. Those she pursued for security became instruments of destruction. The Hebrew *natan* (delivered/gave) indicates active divine causation, not mere permission. God orchestrated Assyria's conquest of Samaria (722 BC) as judicial punishment. Upon whom she doted shows divine irony—our idols become our punishment. What we love inordinately God may give us fully, revealing its destructive nature (Romans 1:24-28). This is judicial abandonment—God gives us what we wrongly demand.

## Historical Context

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After decades of seeking Assyrian alliance and paying tribute, Israel finally rebelled against Assyria under King Hoshea (2 Kings 17:4). Shalmaneser V besieged Samaria for three years (725-722 BC), and Sargon II completed the conquest, deporting 27,290 Israelites according to Assyrian records. The very nation Israel trusted destroyed her.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do our idols eventually destroy us?
2. What does it mean that God's judgment often grants us what we wrongly desire?
3. How should we respond when worldly systems we've trusted turn against us?

## Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| לִּי<br>H3651              | נָתַתִּי יָהּ<br>H5414  | בְּיָד<br>H3027     | מֵאֲהָבֵי יָהּ<br>H157 | בְּיָד<br>H3027    |
| Wherefore I have delivered | her into the hand       | of her lovers       | her into the hand      |                    |
| בְּנֵי י<br>H1121          | אֲשֶׁר אֵשׁ וּר<br>H804 | אֲשֶׁר ר<br>H834    | עָגְבָּהּ ה<br>H5689   | עָלֵיהֶם:<br>H5921 |
| of the Assyrians           |                         | upon whom she doted |                        |                    |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 11:5** (Parallel theme): He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.

**2 Kings 17:23** (Parallel theme): Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

**2 Kings 15:29** (Parallel theme): In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.