

EZEKIEL 23:1-49 – “TWO HARLOT SISTERS; THE OLDER SISTER, SAMARIA; THE YOUNGER SISTER, JERUSALEM; JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM; BOTH SISTERS JUDGED”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The next two studies we will be the corruption of God's people (Chapter 23) and the conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon (Chapter 24)

Eze 23:1 The word of the LORD came again to me, saying:

Eze 23:2 "Son of man, there were two women, The daughters of one mother.

Eze 23:3 They committed harlotry in Egypt. They committed harlotry in their youth; Their breasts were there embraced, Their virgin bosom was there pressed.

Eze 23:4 Their names: Oholah the elder and Oholibah her sister; They were Mine, And they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholibah.

Eze 23:5 "Oholah played the harlot even though she was Mine; And she lusted for her lovers, the neighboring Assyrians.

Eze 23:6 Who were clothed in purple, Captains and rulers, All of them desirable young men, Horsemen riding on horses.

Eze 23:7 Thus she committed her harlotry with them, All of them choice men of Assyria; And with all for whom she lusted, With all their idols, she defiled herself.

Eze 23:8 She has never given up her harlotry brought from Egypt, For in her youth they had lain with her, Pressed her virgin bosom, And poured out their immorality upon her.

Eze 23:9 "Therefore I have delivered her Into the hand of her lovers, Into the hand of the Assyrians, For whom she lusted.

Eze 23:10 They uncovered her nakedness, Took away her sons and daughters, And slew her with the sword; She became a byword among women, For they had executed judgment on her.

Eze 23:11 "Now although her sister Oholibah saw this, she became more corrupt in her lust than she, and in her harlotry more corrupt than her sister's harlotry.

Eze 23:12 "She lusted for the neighboring Assyrians, Captains and rulers, Clothed most gorgeously, Horsemen riding on horses, All of them desirable young men.

WHY GOD WILL BRING HIS WRATH UPON THEM:

1 The seventh word of judgment from the LORD. The allegory of Oholah and Oholibah.

2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one¹ mother, meaning, Israel and Judah who both came out of one family. **Sisters, the daughter of one mother (Israel).**

3 And they committed harlotries in Egypt. They became idolaters after the manner of the Egyptians (during the wilderness march – **Ex. 32**). They committed harlotries in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised their virginity.

4 And the names of them were Oholah (which signifies “**her(not Mine) tent**”- *ohel*- or dwelling in herself, meaning Samaria, which was the royal city of Israel) the elder, and Oholibah (signifies “**my tent in her**”) by which is meant Jerusalem, where God's temple was), her sister: and they were mine, and they bore sons and daughters. Thus were their names; **Samaria is Oholah**, and **Jerusalem is Oholibah**.

5 Oholah played the harlot when she was mine, when the Israelites were named the people of God, they became idolaters and forsook God and put their trust in the Assyrians. And she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbors.

6 As a lustful woman's passions are fired by showy dress and youthful appearance in men, so Israel was seduced by the pomp and power of Assyria and its horsemen.

7 She entered into alliance with them, and joined them in their idolatrous worship: with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria; before described by their habit, office, and age: and with all on whom she doted; had an insatiable desire and lust after: with all their idols she defiled herself; worshipped all the idols the Assyrians did; and which were defiling, as they must needs be, since, as the word used signifies, they were dunghill gods.

8 Neither left she her harlotries brought from Egypt. For in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their immorality upon her. Notice the terms, which seem strange to chaste ears, to cause this wicked vice of idolatry to be so abhorred that no one could stand to hear the name of it.

9 To destruction; their persons, families, riches, and kingdom itself. Into the hand of the Assyrians, on whom she doted; first into the hands of Pul, then Tiglathpileser, then Shalmaneser, all kings of Assyria, by whom they were spoiled or carried captive; by the two first in part, by the last wholly; see **2Ki 15:19**.

10 These uncovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became a byword among women; for the Assyrians they had executed judgment upon her.

11 Judah, the southern kingdom, though having the “warning” (see on **Eze 23:10**) of the northern kingdom before her eyes, instead of profiting by it, went to even greater lengths in corruption than Israel. Her greater spiritual privileges made her guilt the greater

12 As in As in the times of Ahaz, who sent to Tiglathpileser, king of Assyria, for help; and from whence he took the pattern of an altar, and had one built like it at Jerusalem, and offered upon it, **2Ki 16:7**. Captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously; or “perfectly”; with all kind of precious garments, and of all manner of colors; not with blue only, but purple, scarlet, crimson, &c. Horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men;

We must listen to the LORD as He speaks to us! We have seen God condemning Israel (Jerusalem) for about 20 chapters!

Why is He spending all this time demonstrating His judgment? He wants us to understand how to live in this world!

Another indication of immorality and idolatry! It's time to get right with the Lord!

The reasons for judgment of Jerusalem is being wrapped up in chapters 22,23,

and 24. So God lays out in the twenty third chapter, His charge against Israel, and

basically it is a charge of unfaithfulness from the beginning. Even while they were in Egypt,

though they were descendants of Abraham, they had begun to embrace the worship in

Egypt, the worship of the Egyptian gods. Thus even before they were brought out of Egypt,

they were guilty of, of adultery in a spiritual sense, of fornication. God brought them into

the wilderness, and there God revealed

Himself, made His covenant, and then brought them into the land.

Vs. 5-13 We see Judah, the southern kingdom ignoring what had happened to the northern kingdom, which in 722 BC had been defeated by Assyria.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Eze 23:13 Then I saw that she was defiled; Both took the same way.

Eze 23:14 But she increased her harlotry; She looked at men portrayed on the wall, Images of Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion,

Eze 23:15 Girded with belts around their waists, Flowing turbans on their heads, All of them looking like captains, In the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, The land of their nativity.

Eze 23:16 As soon as her eyes saw them, She lusted for them And sent messengers to them in Chaldea.

Eze 23:17 "Then the Babylonians came to her, into the bed of love, And they defiled her with their immorality; So she was defiled by them, and alienated herself from them.

Eze 23:18 She revealed her harlotry and uncovered her nakedness. Then I alienated Myself from her, As I had alienated Myself from her sister.

Eze 23:19 "Yet she multiplied her harlotry In calling to remembrance the days of her youth, When she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

Eze 23:20 For she lusted for her paramours, Whose flesh is like the flesh of donkeys, And whose issue is like the issue of horses.

Eze 23:21 Thus you called to remembrance the lewdness of your youth, When the Egyptians pressed your bosom Because of your youthful breasts.

Eze 23:22 "Therefore, Oholibah, thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I will stir up your lovers against you, From whom you have alienated yourself, And I will bring them against you from every side:

Eze 23:23 The Babylonians, All the Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa, Koa, All the Assyrians with them, All of them desirable young men, Governors and rulers, Captains and men of renown, All of them riding on horses.

13 Then I saw that she was defiled, With idols, and the worship of them, Eze 23:7, that they both took the same way; the same way of idolatry; worshipped the same idols, lived the same course of life, were guilty of the same sin, both Israel and Judah.

14 And that she increased her harlotries, worse than Samaria, for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion. This declares that no words are able to sufficiently express the rage of idolaters. These are compared to those who in their raging love and filthy lusts dote on the images and paintings of them after whom they lust.

15 Rather, “in flowing turbans”; literally, “redundant with dyed turbans.” The Assyrians delighted in ample, flowing, and richly colored tunics, scarfs, girdles, and head-dresses or turbans, varying in ornaments according to the rank. Chaldea, land of their nativity, between the Black and Caspian Seas. Captains, literally, a first-rate military class that fought by threes in the chariots, one guiding the horses, the other two fighting.

16 As lustful women, on the sight of the pictures of men, fall in love with them, and are mad after them; such a vehement desire after the idols of the Chaldeans prevailed, upon seeing their images. And sent messengers unto them in Chaldea; to make alliances with the Chaldeans, and to have their idols, and worship them. (I

John 2:15-17)

17 After Josiah’s death and the usurpation of dominion by the Egyptians, the Babylonians were no doubt welcomed as friends 2Ki 24:1. But the Jews were soon tired of their alliance and disgusted with their friends, and this led to the rebellion of Jehoiakim and the first captivity.

18 literally, “was broken off from her.” Just retribution for “her mind being alienated (broken off) from the Chaldeans”, to whom she had sworn allegiance.

“Revealed/uncovered” implies the open shamelessness of her apostasy.

19 Israel first “called” her lusts, practiced when in Egypt, “to (her fond) remembrance,” and then actually returned to them.

20 her paramours — that is, her paramours among them (the Egyptians); she doted upon their persons as her paramours; flesh — the *membrum virile* (very large in the male member); issue of horses — the seminal issue. The horse was made by the Egyptians the hieroglyphic for a lustful person.

21 remembrance the lewdness of your youth,.... By committing the same; the same idolatries their fathers committed in Egypt they now committed, being in alliance with the same people: or by the Lord, who remembered their sins, and punished them for them; pressed your bosom, committing spiritual fornication, idolatry with them; signified by pressing and bruising the breasts of virgins, by physical fornication with them.

22 Or you two tribes of Benjamin and Judah, hear what the Lord says unto you: behold, I will stir up your lovers against you; the Chaldeans, whom they had formerly loved, and in whose alliance they were, and whose idols they worshipped: from whom you have alienated; having broken covenant with them, and cast off their yoke, and rebelled against them; and I will bring them against you from every side; to besiege and encompass Jerusalem on every side with their army, as they did, so that there was no escaping.

23 The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa (tribes, allies of Babylon, these names sound the same in Hebrew) and all the Assyrians with them: all of them desirable young men, captains and rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding upon horses.

v. 19 We should mark the danger of suffering the memory to dwell on the pleasure felt in past sins.

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OBSERVATION

Eze 23:24 *And they shall come against you With chariots, wagons, and war-horses, With a horde of people. They shall array against you Buckler, shield, and helmet all around. 'I will delegate judgment to them, And they shall judge you according to their judgments.*

Eze 23:25 *I will set My jealousy against you, And they shall deal furiously with you; They shall remove your nose and your ears, And your remnant shall fall by the sword; They shall take your sons and your daughters, And your remnant shall be devoured by fire.*

Eze 23:26 *They shall also strip you of your clothes And take away your beautiful jewelry.*

Eze 23:27 *'Thus I will make you cease your lewdness and your harlotry Brought from the land of Egypt, So that you will not lift your eyes to them, Nor remember Egypt anymore.'*

Eze 23:28 *"For thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will deliver you into the hand of those you hate, into the hand of those from whom you alienated yourself.*

Eze 23:29 *They will deal hatefully with you, take away all you have worked for, and leave you naked and bare. The nakedness of your harlotry shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your harlotry.*

Eze 23:30 *I will do these things to you because you have become defiled by their idols.*

Eze 23:31 *You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will put her cup in your hand.'*

Eze 23:32 *"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You shall drink of your sister's cup, The deep and wide one; You shall be laughed to scorn And held in derision; It contains much.*

Eze 23:33 *You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, The cup of horror and desolation, The cup of your sister Samaria.*

Eze 23:34 *You shall drink and drain it, You shall break its shards, And tear at your own breasts; For I have spoken,' Says the Lord GOD.*

Eze 23:35 *"Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, Therefore you shall bear the penalty Of your lewdness and your harlotry.' "*

Eze 23:36 *The LORD also said to me: "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominations.*

Eze 23:37 *For they have committed (spiritual) adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them.*

INTERPRETATION

24 *with chariots* — or, “with armaments”; so the *Septuagint*; “axes”; or, joining it with “wagons,” translate, “with scythe-armed wagons,” or “chariots”; *war-horses* — The unusual height of these increased their formidable appearance; *their judgments* — which awarded barbarously severe punishments

25 Adulteresses were punished so among the Egyptians and Chaldeans. Oriental beauties wore ornaments in the ear and nose. How just the retribution, that the features, nose and ears, most bejeweled should be mutilated! So, allegorically as to Judah, the spiritual adulteress.

26 *strip ... of ... your clothes* — whereby she attracted her paramours or lovers

27 *Thus ... make ... cease your lewdness* — The captivity has made the Jews ever since abhor idolatry, not only on their return from Babylon, but for the last eighteen centuries of their dispersion, as foretold.

28 The Chaldeans and Babylonians, before loved by her, and doted upon, but now hated and rebelled against; and to fall into such hands must be a sore judgment; and this the Lord threatens to bring upon the Jews for their sins; and He having said it, it might be depended upon it would be performed; and, for the greater certainty of it, it is repeated in different words: *into the hand of those you hate...from whom you alienated yourself.*

29 And they shall deal hatefully with you, and shall take away all your treasures and riches which you have worked for, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy harlotries shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and thy harlotries.

30 What the Chaldeans did God is said to do, because he suffered them to do these things, as a punishment for their sins; yea, it was according to His will, and by His orders. Vulgate Latin versions render it, “they have done these things unto thee”; that is, the Chaldeans. *defiled by their idols*— imitated them in their idolatries; worshipped the same dunghill gods as they did, with which it was no wonder they should be polluted, and become abominable unto God.

31 Samaria, or the ten tribes of Israel; followed them in their idolatrous practices, were guilty of the same: *put her cup* - inflict the same punishment on the two tribes as on the ten, and suffer them to be carried captive as they had been.

32 Thou shalt be ruined and desolated as Samaria was; *You shall be laughed to scorn, and held in derision*; by the nations round about, who, instead of pitying them under their troubles, will rejoice at them; just as drunken men are laughed at, when intoxicated and reeling about:

33 Thou shalt be filled with ^(u) drunkenness and sorrow (meaning that it's afflictions would be so great that they would cause them to lose their senses and reason), with the cup of horror and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.

34 *and tear at you own breasts*; a frequent action in extreme sorrow and desolation. Weeping, tearing the bosom, and beating the breasts.

35 His word, worship, and ordinances, and did not attend unto them, but worshipped strange gods: or out of thy sight, his laws and statutes; see Neh 9:26, as men cast behind their backs that which they have no value for and loath, and which they do not care to see, and choose to forget; *bear the penalty* - that is, the guilt of their sins, the punishment of their idolatries, and shame and confusion for them

36 A summing up of the sins of the two sisters, especially those of Judah. *Will you judge* — Will you not judge?

37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bore to me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them.

APPLICATION

V 27. God judges nations so they will stop following the world and to follow Him.

v. 35 We must renew our minds daily in the Word of God. (If you stay away from it one day, you will know it. If you stay away from it two days, your family will know it. If you stay away from it a week, all around you will know it!)

Their disobedience, defilement of true worship, the desire for what the enemies could give them.

Under Manassah, many children were burned in the arms of Molech! Number one reason for abortion is because of sex outside of marriage!!! Are we any different?

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OBSERVATION

Eze 23:38 *Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths.*

Eze 23:39 *For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house.*

Eze 23:40 *"Furthermore you sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and there they came. And you washed yourself for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments.*

Eze 23:41 *You sat on a stately couch, with a table prepared before it, on which you had set My incense and My oil.*

Eze 23:42 *The sound of a carefree multitude was with her, and Sabaeans were brought from the wilderness with men of the common sort, who put bracelets on their wrists and beautiful crowns on their heads.*

Eze 23:43 *Then I said concerning her who had grown old in adulteries, 'Will they commit harlotry with her now, and she with them?'*

Eze 23:44 *Yet they went in to her, as men go in to a woman who plays the harlot; thus they went in to Oholah and Oholibah, the lewd women.*

Eze 23:45 *But righteous men will judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women who shed blood, because they are adulteresses, and blood is on their hands.*

Eze 23:46 *"For thus says the Lord GOD: 'Bring up an assembly against them, give them up to trouble and plunder.*

Eze 23:47 *The assembly shall stone them with stones and execute them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn their houses with fire.*

Eze 23:48 *Thus I will cause lewdness to cease from the land, that all women may be taught not to practice your lewdness.*

Eze 23:49 *They shall repay you for your lewdness, and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD.' "*

Questions:

- Per verse 3, when did Israel begin committing harlotry?
- What does the Hebrew word, *ohel*, mean?
- What country is referred to as the land of Israel's nativity? (v. 15)
- Why does God judge a nation?
- How can we see in today's study the predicted coming judgment of Jerusalem is from the Lord Himself? (How many "I will"?)
- We see much of lewdness and harlotry in today's study, in verse 35 what is the result of that and how does God feel about it?

INTERPRETATION

38 The same day - The day when they made their offerings. On the very day that they had burned their children to Molech in the valley of Gehenna, they shamelessly and hypocritically presented themselves as worshippers in Jehovah's temple.

39 Yahweh was placed as it were in the list of deities, not acknowledged as the One God. Idols and idol-temples were erected close to the House of God, and yet the temple-service went on Jer 32:33-36; Lev 20:1-5

40A summing up of the sins of the two sisters, especially those of Judah. *wilt thou judge* — Will you not judge? *messenger was sent* — namely, by Judah (Eze 23:16; Isa 57:9). *painted ... eyes* — (2Ki 9:30, Margin; Jer 4:30). Black paint was spread on the eyelids of beauties to make the white of the eye more attractive by the contrast, so Judah left no seductive art untried.

41 *with a table prepared..* You raised a stately altar to your idols; probably alluding to that which Ahaz ordered to be made, after the similitude of that which he saw at Damascus. The bed here is in allusion to the sofas on which the ancients were accustomed to recline at their meals; or to the couches on which they place Asiatic brides, with incense pots and sweetmeats on a table before them.

42...*sound of a carefree multitude* - This seems to be an account of an idolatrous festival, where a riotous multitude was assembled, and fellows of the baser sort, with bracelets on their arms and chapters on their heads, performed the religious rites.

43Rather, Now shall there be committed her whoredom, even this; i. e., when Israel and Judah had courted these alliances God said in wrath, "This sin too shall be committed, and so (not "yet") they went in;" the alliances were made according to their desires, and then followed the consequent punishment.

44 Made a league with one another, and joined in idolatrous worship: with the same heat of lust, with the same greediness and eager desire as young men do when they go into a brothel house where a beautiful harlot lives: they, the ten tribes of Israel, and the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, which apostatized from God, and committed idolatry.

45And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses (worthy of death), and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands.

46 *a company* — properly, "a council of judges" passing sentence on a criminal. The "removal" and "spoiling" by the Chaldean army is the execution of the judicial sentence of God.

47 *stones* — the legal penalty of the adulteress (Eze 16:40, Eze 16:41; Joh 8:5). Answering to the *stones* hurled by the Babylonians from engines in besieging Jerusalem. *houses ... fire* — fulfilled (2Ch 36:17, 2Ch 36:19).

48 Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all cities and countries' women may be taught not to practice your lewdness.

49 Or, "give your lewdness"; the just punishment of it; *and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins*; the shame, and guilt, and punishment of their sins committed in worshipping idols: *Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD...* the only Lord God who is to be worshipped, and not idols; jealous of my honor and glory, and true to my word; who can and will accomplish all I have said; this the Jews knew and acknowledged when in captivity, and returned from it, as they will more fully when they shall be converted in the latter day.

APPLICATION

We need to clean house. Judgment begins in the house of the Lord.

Although there are many believer, the Lord will bring judgment against us and our country!

We will get out of the judgment section when Ezekiel will. (one more chapter)

DISOBEDIENCE TURNING AWAY FROM THE LORD LEWDNESS IDOLATRY

Eze 14:6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

Eze 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

Mar 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Rev 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*