

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 368 – Two Women Through Not Looking To Egypt Any More (Ezekiel 23:1-27)

1. Who are the two women we are reading about as we begin to study this chapter?

Two sisters, Aholah [Samaria in Israel] and Aholibah [Jerusalem in Judah].

“(1) The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother: (3) 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. (4) And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah” (Ezekiel 23:1-4).

- **Jeremiah 3:6-25** is clearer terminology letting us know for sure we are talking about Israel and Judah here. This chapter is similar in many ways to **Ezekiel 16**.
- Israel and Judah is about the bloodline (**Genesis 35:22-26**).
- The imagery of fondled breasts and bruised nipples (**Hosea 2:1-2**).
- Samaria was the capital city of Israel while Jerusalem was the capital city of Judah which had been polluted with idolatry (**Micah 1:1-5**).
- They had belonged to the Lord (**Jeremiah 2:1-3**).
- Think about what responsibility comes today with not just having once belonged to the Lord, but continuing to belong to Him (**II Timothy 2:19**).

2. Why did the Lord deliver Aholah into the hands of the Assyrians?

For her whoredoms: *“(5) And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours, (6) Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses. (7) Thus she committed her whoredoms with them, with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself. (8) 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. (9) Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted. (10) These discovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her” (Ezekiel 23:5-10).*

- Think about the phrase “played the harlot” (**Jeremiah 3:1**).
- What we know is, playing the harlot wasn’t even satisfying to them (**Ezekiel 16:28**).
- “Doted” is mentioned in this chapter six times (vs. **5; 7; 9; 12; 16; 20**). It means to “love” sensually. It is translated “lovers” in **Jeremiah 4:30**.
- This was spiritual adultery for she did this while belonging to the Lord (**Isaiah 54:5**; cf. **James 4:4**).

- The Assyrians were attractive to these spiritual harlots because of their apparel and outward appearances. Think about a principle from that (**Proverbs 6:20-26**).
- “With all their idols” (**Psalms 106:39** and **Ezekiel 20:18**).
- Think about how long this problem has existed... “whoredoms brought from Egypt... in her youth” (**Exodus 32:1-6**). **More on this in verses 19-27**.
- God gave them over to her lovers (**II Kings 17:1-23** and **Hosea 11:1-5**).

3. Did Aholibah learn from what happened to Aholah?

No: *“(11) And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms. (12) She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men”* (**Ezekiel 23:11-12**).

- Judah did NOT learn anything from this. She actually became WORSE than Israel (**Jeremiah 3:8-11** and **Ezekiel 16:47-52**).
- The errors and consequences of others SHOULD be a tool of instruction for those concerned about righteousness (**I Corinthians 10:1-13**).
- Yet, some are bent on being worse than those before them (**I Kings 16:25** and **Jeremiah 7:26**).
- They just “forget” (**Psalms 106:13-14**) or ignore all together (**Psalms 78:10**).

4. What caused the Lord’s mind to be alienated from Aholibah?

Judah was alienated from the Lord when she increased her whoredoms with the Chaldeans: *“(13) Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way, (14) And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermilion, (15) Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity: (16) And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea. (17) And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them. (18) So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister”* (**Ezekiel 23:13-18**).

- Israel and Judah both chose the same defilements (**II Kings 17:18-19**).
- Upon seeing pictures on the wall of the Chaldeans, Judah lusted to have them like an adulterous woman (cf. **Proverbs 23:33**).
- The lust didn’t stop, she sent messengers (i.e. **II Kings 20:12-21**).
- Like an adulterous woman, Judah exposed herself to the Chaldeans and became defiled (cf. **Leviticus 18:20**).

5. Judah's current spiritual fornication called to remembrance what prior actions that needed to be purged from their memories?

Their lusts after the Chaldeans was likened to her playing the harlot with Egypt: *"(19) 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. (20) For she doted upon their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses. (21) Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy teats by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth. (22) Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side; (23) The Babylonians, and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, and Shoa, and Koa, 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. (24) And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments. (25) And I will set my jealousy against thee, and they shall deal furiously with thee: they shall take away thy nose and thine ears; and thy remnant shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters; and thy residue shall be devoured by the fire. (26) They shall also strip thee out of thy clothes, and take away thy fair jewels. (27) Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more"* (**Ezekiel 23:19-27**).

- "The days of her youth" (cf. vs. 8) dates this before more recent generations that we read about in **Isaiah 30:1-7**, **Isaiah 31:1-3**, **Isaiah 36:1-6**, or even **Jeremiah 43:7**. Yet, the more recent years in their history shows their pattern of looking backwards to the ways of the Egyptians (**Ezekiel 20:7-8**).
- They lusted upon them as male concubines whose male member was likened to that of an ass and whose semen like that of a horse. Think about this graphic analogy to reveal the sexual carnality in explaining their idolatrous practices (**Ezekiel 16:26**).
- All of their figurative lovers would be brought against them as the Lord would set judgment before them to judge Judah (**Jeremiah 12:10-12** and **Micah 4:11**).
- God had long established His jealousy and how He would react (**Exodus 20:1-5**, **Exodus 34:14**, and **Leviticus 20:1-5**).
- They should have considered their latter end (**Deuteronomy 32:1-29**).
- They would be stripped (**Jeremiah 13:22** and **Hosea 2:1-10**).
- God wanted to judge them harshly enough to purge Egypt from their minds (**Isaiah 48:10** and **Ezekiel 24:13**).