

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 369 – Delivered Into Their Hands Through Bearing Their Sins (Ezekiel 23:28-49)

1. Was God going to deliver Judah into the hands of their friends?

No, into the hands of those whom they hated for of their whoredoms: *“(28) For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated: (29) And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms. (30) I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols” (Ezekiel 23:28-30).*

- We have read before how they were to be delivered into the hands of those whom they hated (**Ezekiel 16:37**). The specific is the Chaldeans [Babylon] (**Jeremiah 34:18-22**).
- The hatefulness the Lord would deliver them to is something He forewarned Israel of long before this (**Deuteronomy 28:47-51**).
- The Lord was doing this because of their acts of whoredom (**Jeremiah 13:27**) and the pollution of themselves such caused (**Jeremiah 3:2** and **Ezekiel 36:18**).

2. What was going to happen because they had forgotten the Lord?

They would have to drink the same cup as Israel and bear their lewdness and whoredoms: *“(31) Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand. (32) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou shalt drink of thy sister's cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much. (33) Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria. (34) Thou shalt even drink it and suck it out, and thou shalt break the sherds thereof, and pluck off thine own breasts: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. (35) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms” (Ezekiel 23:31-35).*

- We know from previous studies that they not only walked in the way of their sister Israel, but exceeded their sinfulness (**Jeremiah 3:6-11** and **Ezekiel 16:46-47**).
- Her cup (**Isaiah 51:17** and **Jeremiah 25:15-18**).
- Laughed to scorn (**Lamentations 2:15-16**) as forewarned (**Deuteronomy 28:15-37**).
- Drunk on wrath and filled with sorrow (**Jeremiah 25:27-29** and **Habakkuk 2:15**).
- Drink it, suck, break the cup.... Paints a picture (**Psalms 75:7-8**; cf. **Revelation 16:19**).

- Pluck off their breasts paints a picture too. Think about how they went from perfect to now disfigured. Considering this imagery in light of how the Lord desired gifts to Him to be given and what that meant to Him (**Leviticus 22:24**).
- They forgot much concerning God as was their pattern (**Psalms 78:11; 42; 106:13, Jeremiah 2:32; 3:21; 13:25; 18:15, Ezekiel 16:43, and Hosea 4:1-6; 8:14; 13:6**).

3. When Israel and Judah transgressed, were they ashamed to come into the Lord's house?

No, they were not ashamed: *"(36) The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations; (37) That 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 bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them. (38) Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths. (39) For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house"* (**Ezekiel 23:36-39**).

- As we have repeatedly noted, Ezekiel is supposed to expose their errors (**Isaiah 58:1, Ezekiel 2:7-8, Ezekiel 16:2, Ezekiel 20:4, Ezekiel 22:2, and Ezekiel 33:7-9**).
- Their spiritual adultery through idolatrous practices (**Hosea 3:1**) included sacrificing their children to false gods (**II Kings 17:13-17, Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35, and Ezekiel 26:20-21**).
- They defiled the house of God and the Sabbath (**II Kings 21:1-7**) the same day as offering their children as sacrifices (**Jeremiah 7:9-11**).
- They then acted like all was good (**Proverbs 30:20 and Matthew 23:14**).
- Remember how the "religious leaders" conspired to kill Jesus, but still acted concerned about the Law of God (**Matthew 27:1-10 and John 18:28**).

4. Were the harlot like calls to certain strange men [figuratively speaking] answered?

Yes, they came from afar as unto a woman that played the harlot: *"(40) And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments, (41) And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil. (42) And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads. (43) Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them? (44) 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"* (**Ezekiel 23:40-44**).

- The imagery is that of a harlot trying to sexually allure her prey (**Proverbs 7:1-27**).

5. What type of men did the Lord bring to judge Israel and Judah?

Righteous men: *“(45) And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands. (46) For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled” (Ezekiel 23:45-46).*

- He would not have the unrighteous be the judges (**Matthew 7:1-5**, **John 7:24**, and **Romans 2:1-29**).
- The only men that really fit this “righteous judge” description, considering the context, were the faithful prophets (**Jeremiah 5:14**, **Hosea 6:5**, and **Zechariah 1:6**).
- Judged after the manner of an adulteress (**Leviticus 20:10; 21:9**) and one that sheds blood (**Deuteronomy 19:10**).
- The stoning by the company [congregation] of like sins (**Leviticus 20:1-2**).
- The literal judgment was to be removed and given for a spoil (**Jeremiah 20:5**).

6. What actions was the company [assembly; congregation; multitude] sent by the Lord going to bring upon His erring people?

“(47) And the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire. (48) Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness. (49) And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 23:47-49).

- What happened was what God said would happen (**II Chronicles 36:17-19**).
- All their idols destroyed and thus their lewdness [mischief] would not go forward (**Micah 5:11-14**).
- Their ways would be recompensed on their own heads (**Ezekiel 9:10**).