

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 359 – Know Their Abominations Through They Are Contrary (Ezekiel 16:1-34)

1. Did the Lord want Israel to be ignorant of their abominations?

No: *“(1) Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations” (Ezekiel 16:1-2).*

- **Isaiah 58:1, Ezekiel 2:7-8, Ezekiel 16:2, Ezekiel 20:4, Ezekiel 22:2, and Ezekiel 33:7-9**

2. Was Jerusalem always the Lord's?

No: *“(3) And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. (4) And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. (5) None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. (6) And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. (7) I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. (8) Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine” (Ezekiel 16:3-8).*

- The Lord is trying to get them to remember the days of their youth (**Ezekiel 16:22**). God CHOSE Jerusalem, planted His people there, and made the city His city (**II Chronicles 6:6** and **Psalms 132:13-14**).
- The beginning of the land of Judah, the city of Jerusalem, was originally a land of the Amorites, Hittites, etc. (**Deuteronomy 20:16-18**). Sadly, the unclean practices of these people influenced Israel greatly to sin (**Ezra 9:1**).
- Going back to the beginning of the nation of Israel, they were not cared for in their beginning at all and was as an infant cast aside (**Acts 7:1-19**).
- Then God stepped in (**Exodus 2:23-25** and **Acts 7:34-36**). Think about US as Gentiles and the application that fits for us (**Ephesians 2:11-17**).
- He multiplied them (**Deuteronomy 1:10**) and caused them to mature into a firm and grown people dressed in excellent ornaments (**Deuteronomy 32:9-14** and **Isaiah 61:10-11**).
- The Lord used language to indicate that he found this people as a delicate, available woman, and took her into His bed (cf. **Ruth 3:7-9**). He chose them and set His love upon them (**Deuteronomy 7:6-9**).

- He married them in the sense of entering into a covenant relationship with them as He became their Husband and they His bride (**Isaiah 54:5**, **Isaiah 62:4**, and **Jeremiah 3:14**).

3. How was Jerusalem made clean and beautiful?

The Lord's doing: *"(9) Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. (10) I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. (11) I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. (12) And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. (13) Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. (14) And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD"* (**Ezekiel 16:9-14**).

- He cleansed them (**Exodus 19:9-17**).
- He adorned them, clothed them, and fed them with fine things as a beautiful bride for Himself (cf. **Revelation 21:1-2**).
- Other nations knew of Israel (**Joshua 2:3-11**, **Joshua 5:1**, and **1 Kings 10:1-24**). When they fell, that caused nations to say revealing things (**Lamentations 2:15**).

4. What did Jerusalem do with her beauty and prosperity?

Played the spiritual harlot: *"(15) But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. (16) And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so. (17) Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them, (18) And tookest thy brodered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them. (19) My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD"* (**Ezekiel 16:15-19**).

- Instead of remembering that they were made what they were by God, they trusted in themselves (**Deuteronomy 32:15**, **Ezekiel 33:13**, and **Luke 18:9-15**).
- Since they were so well known, by the Lord's doing, they used that fame to play the harlot with EVERYONE that passed by (**Isaiah 1:1-21**, **Isaiah 57:8**, **Jeremiah 2:20**, and **Ezekiel 23:1-27**).
- Think of how this imagery paints God's people (**Proverbs 7:1-27**).

- They took what God gave them and offered that to others as though they forgot who gave them all these things (**Hosea 2:1-8**).

5. What was done with the children in Jerusalem?

They were offered to false gods: *“(20) Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, (21) That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them? (22) And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood” (Ezekiel 16:20-22).*

- God viewed their children as His (**Numbers 3:13; 8:17**).
- The sacrificing of their children to other gods (**Psalms 106:37-38, Jeremiah 7:31**, and **Ezekiel 20:26-31; 23:39**).
- Yet, they felt it was a small thing, or of not fault (**Jeremiah 2:34-35**).
- Again, they forgot what they came from.

6. With whom were they playing the spiritual harlot?

As an imperious [arrogant; domineering] whorish woman, they practiced whoredoms with all that passed by without satisfaction: *“(23) And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee! saith the Lord GOD;) (24) That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street. (25) Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms. (26) Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger. (27) Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way. (28) Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldst not be satisfied. (29) Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith. (30) How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman” (Ezekiel 16:23-30).*

- They polluted themselves to make their beauty abhorred (**Psalms 78:56-59; 106:39-40**).
- The Lord equated them to a whore whom opened her legs to all who passed by and yet could not be [figuratively] sexually satisfied (**Jeremiah 2:9-37**; cf. **Proverbs 27:20**). In verse 26 there is a graphic illustration likened unto **Ezekiel 16:20** in thinking of this spiritual fornication like comparing the size of a male sexual member in lust.
- They did such to provoke Him to anger (**Jeremiah 7:18; 11:17; 25:6**).

- They were an imperious [arrogant; domineering] whorish woman (**Proverbs 18:12; 30:13**).

7. What were they gaining through their whoredoms?

That's the crazy part, NOTHING: *“(31) In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire; (32) But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! (33) They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom. (34) And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary” (Ezekiel 16:31-34).*

- **Isaiah 30:1-7, Isaiah 52:3, and Isaiah 57:9**
- As a wife that commits adultery (**Jeremiah 3:1-20** and **James 4:4**).
- In all of this, we should see that they refused to understand their true value as the people of God (**Deuteronomy 14:2, Exodus 19:5-6, and Amos 3:1-2**).
- For us, what value is there in selling ourselves (**Mark 8:34-38**)?