

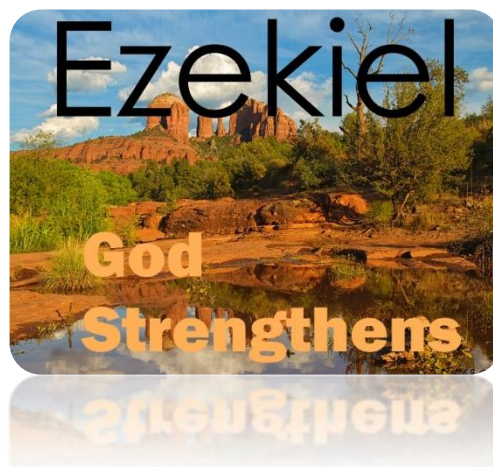
EZEKIEL 23 vs 23

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Matthew Henry wrote: this long chapter is about the history of the apostasy of God's people. It's about His **two women** who came from Egypt... and is only about 1/3rd over... And the question is: Couldn't God have just told us that two peoples came from Egypt? And all that excessive detail about fondling breasts and bleeping around. I mean, I'm sort of shocked the LORD God would even talk like that!

Couldn't The LORD God just say, My people were unfaithful? Unfaithful in their commitments and agreements; making sexy sounding deals and alliances on any terms... with all the neighboring countries, as if the Lord GOD was not sufficient to be depended on. But what do we also learn?



The **House of Israel** -- the **10 tribes of the northern kingdom**, whose capital was **Samaria**... who divorced God and went to **Assyrian captivity** -- lost to history, but not to the LORD God. They still carry the nationalistic birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

...and the **House of Judah**, the **2 tribes**, whose capital was **Jerusalem**... they weren't divorced, but they were sent to **Babylonian captivity**.

Moreover, this is the story of a faithful GOD and Father... looking through the rubble of time... for the man or woman, young or old... a son or a daughter who will depend on Him. And if the LORD values faithfulness to Him in time... then, just imagine what our faith in Him... will purchase for all eternity... because we trust HIM! Don't you sort of wonder where these ancient peoples are today?

22 So, O Aholibah, thus says the LORD God; Indeed, I will stir up against you your lovers, from whom your mind is alienated, and I will bring them against you from 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, rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding on horses / so a large unsavory crowd is on the way; they're not coming to party.

24 And they will come against you from the north with chariots and wagons, and an assembly of peoples. They will set themselves against you on every side, with buckler, shield and helmet: and I will set the judgment before them, and they will judge you according to their judgments.

25 And I will set my jealousy against you, and they will deal with you furiously. They will cut off your nose and your ears; and your remnant will fall by the sword. They will seize your sons and your daughters; and your remnant will be devoured by the fire.

26 They will also strip you of your clothes, and take away your beautiful jewels.

27 Thus I will make your lewdness to cease, and your whoring begun in the land of Egypt: so that you will not lift up your eyes to them, nor remember Egypt anymore.

²⁸ For thus says the LORD God; Behold, I will deliver **you** into the hand of those whom you hate, into the hands of those from whom you were alienated:

²⁹ and they will deal with you in hatred, and will take away all your possessions, and will leave you naked and bare. And the nakedness of your whoring will be uncovered, both your lewdness and your whorings.

³⁰ I will do these things to you, because you went whoring after the nations, and because you were defiled with their idols.

³¹ You went the way of your **sister**; so I will give her cup into your hand / by the way, it isn't fine wine they are drinking, rather they will guzzle the wrath of God; Judah envied the faithlessness of northern Israel, so the Lord permitted Judah to drink the same lewdness.

³² Thus says the LORD God: You will drink of your sister's cup that is deep and large; you will be laughed at, and held in derision, for it contains much.

³³ **You** will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow.

A cup of horror and desolation, the cup of your sister **Samaria**;

³⁴ **you** will drink it and drain it out / in their drunken madness, not a drop of His wrath will be lost, and gnaw its shards, and tear your breasts: for I have spoken, says the LORD God.

³⁵ So thus says the LORD God:

Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back / the Lord is no longer in view, so you must now bear the cost of your lewdness and your whoring.

³⁶ The LORD said to me: Son of man, will you judge **Aholah** and **Aholibah**? Yes, declare to them their abominations.

³⁷ They have adulterated, and **blood** is on their hands.

With their idols they adulterated, and caused their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire, to be offered as food to them / they sacrifice their innocent children to their idols.

³⁸ Moreover this they have done to Me: they defiled My sanctuary on the same day, and profaned My sabbaths / so they disregarded the covenant God made with them at Sinai, when He gave them 10 instructions – and no more, that if they with joy and gladness of heart, would do them, they would be blessed and prosper in the land; if they, chose not to do them, they would be cursed; and God would bring their enemy until they finally were destroyed; I wonder where these people are today.

³⁹ For when they slaughtered their children to their idols / their idols, their manmade images – the work of their hands – their source of power... was more important than their own children,

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then on the same day they came to My sanctuary to profane it.

And, **lo**, thus they did in My house / **mark this**: on the very day that they had burned their children to Molech in the valley of Gehenna, they shamelessly and insincerely presented themselves as worshipers in Yahweh's temple... even half-heartedly singing His praises.

⁴⁰ You even sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and, **lo**, they came. For them you bathed yourself, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments.

⁴¹ You sat on a stately couch, with a prepared table,

and on it you put My incense and My oil.

⁴² The sound of a multitude at ease / a carefree crowd... was with her; and with men of the common sort, Sabeans -- drunkards were brought from the wilderness; they put bracelets on their hands, and beautiful crowns on their heads.

⁴³ Then I said to her who was old in adultery / I said to her who was tired and worn out,

Will they now be whoring with her, and she with them? / are they still going to bleep around with this tired, old haggard STD cesspool?

⁴⁴ Yet they went in to her, as they go in to a prostitute: so they also went in to **Aholah** and **Aholibah**, the lewd women!

⁴⁵ But righteous men / the Chaldeans who were coming to work the justice of God... will judge them with the verdict of adulteresses,

yet after the manner of those who shed **blood** / after the way those murdered their children; because they are adulteresses, and **blood** is on their hands.

⁴⁶ For thus says the LORD God: bring up many against them; make them an object of terror and plunder.

⁴⁷ And the many will stone them with stones, and cut them down with their swords; they will kill their sons and their daughters, and burn their houses with fire.

⁴⁸ Thus I will make lewdness cease from the land, that all women may be taught **not** to do after your lewdness.

⁴⁹ And they will repay your lewdness on you, and you will bear the penalty of your sinful idols: and you will know:

I am the LORD God.