

"The Sisters"
Ezekiel 23

Note: Chapter 23 has similar qualities to chapter 16 in that both are _____ in nature. While chapter 16 was the parable of the _____ woman, chapter 23 is about _____. While chapter 16 spoke of Israel breaking her marriage covenant with other _____, chapter 23 is about Israel's unholy _____ for national security.

vv. 1-2 Q. What is described in this next "word of the Lord"?

A. Two _____ with the same mother.

Note: The "same mother" refers to the fact that Israel was an _____ nation at one point in history (David/Solomon).

Note: From Rehoboam's disastrous reign, division came with _____ taking the ten northern tribes away in succession. This would be known sometimes as _____ and Judah, sometimes _____ and Judah, or more to our context, _____ and Judah.

v. 3 Q. How are they described?

A.

1. They became _____ in Egypt.
2. They _____ themselves from the time they were young.
3. They allowed themselves to be _____ intimately.

v. 4a Q. What were their names?

A.

1. The older was_____.
2. The younger was _____.

Note: Both names stem from the Hebrew root meaning, "tent."

Oholah means, "she who has a tent." Oholibah means, "a tent is in her."

Note: This may be in reference to God's dwelling first in_____ (tabernacle) but later in _____(Temple).

v. 4b Q. What does God say about them?

A.

1. They were God's _____.
2. They_____.

Note:

1. This could mean God's _____the nation coming out of Egypt as a people for himself.
2. The simple meaning is the best: they _____in number, cp. Ex. 1:7.

v. 4c. Q. What is the symbolic meaning of all this?

A.

1. Oholah is _____(the capital of the north)
2. Oholibah is _____(the capital of the south)

The Works of Oholah – vv. 5-10

v. 5a Q. What is Oholah accused of?

A. _____ was engaged in giving herself to other gods/_____ while she was supposed to be worshipping the Lord and under his divine _____.

vv. 5b-6 Q. To whom did she give herself?

A.

v. 7 Q. What is the point in this verse?

A. Political _____ will often lead to spiritual _____.

Q. How does the Apostle Paul teach this in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?

A. _____ for what the world has to offer, e.g., _____, riches, prestige, etc., will only lead you away from God and to _____.

Note: Hosea 5:3-6

v. 8 Q. What is the meaning of this verse?

A. Options:

1. When Israel was a young nation, she was already _____ and allowing the Egyptian gods to embrace her. E.g., calf gods at Mount Sinai.
2. This could refer to the calf gods of Jeroboam at Dan and Bethel during the _____ of Israel and Judah.

3. This could be referring to the historic _____ of King Hoshea in 2 Kings 17:4. Here, the king rebels against paying tribute to the King of _____ and seeks protection from the King of Egypt, i.e., King So, a.k.a., Pharaoh Osorkon IV.

v. 9 Q. What did God do to Oholah?

A.

v. 10 Q. What did her lovers do to her?

A. They sent her into _____ and killed many. She became a _____ warning to other nations.

The Works of Oholibah

v. 11 Q. How is Oholibah's sin worse than her sister's?

A. She had an _____ of what was done to her sister and did not _____ her ways and was worse.

vv. 12-13 Q. How was she like her sister?

A. She _____ herself with the Assyrians as well – instead of _____ the Lord.

vv. 14-15 Q. How is she worse than her sister?

A. She not only embraced the Assyrians, but she gave herself _____ to the Babylonians (Chaldeans). Cp. 2 Kings 24:1

v. 16 Q. What did she do?

A.

1. She _____ after them.

2. She _____ messengers to them.

v. 17 Q. What does this mean?

A. Trying to find _____ in others besides God will always...always _____ and often create the _____ emotion. Cp. 2 Sam. 13:14-15

v. 18 Q. What does God do?

A. God _____ from her in disgust just as she _____ from her lover in disgust.

v. 19 Q. What is Oholibah's response?

A.

1. She increased her sin/_____
2. She _____ the good ole days in Egypt.

vv. 20-21 Q. How are the good ole days described?

A.

1. God is using sexual imagery to describe the _____ of the political/military state of Egypt and Judah's overt _____ to engage or entangle herself with them.
2. They longed to once again be _____ and _____.

Consequences: I will; they will; you will

List the "they will," "I will," "you will" descriptions

vv. 22-23 "I will" _____ your lovers against you.

"I will" bring them against you from _____.

v. 24 “They will” come against you with _____ weapons.
“They will” come against you with _____ weapons.
“I will” turn you over to them for _____.
“They will” punish you according to their _____. (without mercy).

v. 25 “I will” direct my _____ anger against you.
“They will” deal with you in _____.
“They will” _____ your noses and your ears; other will fall by the sword.
“They will” _____ your sons and daughters and those left will be _____ by fire.

v. 26 “They will” also _____ of your clothes and _____ your fine jewelry.

v. 27 “I will” _____ to the lewdness and prostitution you began in Egypt. “You will” not look on these things with _____ or Egypt anymore.

Further description of their punishment: second section

v. 28 Q. What does the Lord say He is going to do?
A. God is handing them over to their _____ for judgment.

v. 29a Q. What will they do to her?
A.
1. They will deal with you in _____.
2. They will _____ everything you have worked for.

3. They will leave you _____ and bare.
4. Judah's _____ will be exposed publicly.

vv. 29b - 30 Q. What does God say is the cause for such judgment?

A.

1. Your _____

Note: In the Bible, "lewdness" generally refers to wickedness or villainy, often associated with immoral or shameless behavior. It is derived from terms that imply a lack of _____ or moral _____, rather than the modern connotation of sexual impropriety.

- 2.

Note: God is using sexual terms to speak about _____ adultery. They are abandoning the love of God for the love of idols.

3. _____ after other nations.
4. _____ themselves with their idols.

v. 31 Q. What does God say about her judgment?

A. The cup of _____ your sister drank out of will be your beverage as well.

Poetic Word on the Cup (vv. 32-34)

Q. How is the cup described as well as the results of drinking from it?

A.

v. 32a The cup is _____ and _____.

v. 32b The cup will bring _____ and _____ (the act of ridiculing).

v. 33 The cup will be full of _____, sorrow, _____, and desolation – just like Samaria (Oholah).

v. 34 You will _____ the cup, _____ the cup of all its contents, and as it is smashed you will _____ on the broken sherds and _____ your breasts.

Note: Some translations have, "you will _____ it to pieces" but the above is closer to the Hebrew.

This is a prime of example of a person or nation that _____ God – a type of spiritual _____ comes upon them.

The Confrontation (vv. 35 – 49)

v. 35 Q. What is the reason for the confrontation?

A. They had _____ God and _____ their back on Him.

v. 36a Q. What is the question asked of Ezekiel?

A. Will you _____ these two sisters?

Note: God is not asking Ezekiel an actual question as if God doesn't know or as if Ezekiel has an option. It has the feel of "_____? Then let's go."

v. 36b Q. "Let's go do what?"

A. "Then _____ with their detestable practices..."

v. 37a Q. What were they?

A.
1. They committed spiritual _____.

2. They have _____ on their hands. [Responsible for the death of others.]

v. 38 Q. Next? [Expounded]

A.

1. Committed spiritual adultery with false gods. [_____]
2. Sacrificed their own _____ as food to those false gods.

Note on child sacrifice.

The Bible doesn't go into detail about the _____ of child sacrifice, e.g. when it began. We can assume that any type of _____ practice could have easily been an activity from the time of or preceding the _____ when "every inclination of the heart was evil all the time."

When the Bible speaks of child sacrifice it is in the context of His _____ not being like the _____ worshippers around them.

The first _____ against such things is found in Deuteronomy 12:29-31.

Read Deut. 18:10-12

Read Leviticus 18:21

Read Leviticus 20:2-5

Read 2 Kings 23:13

Read Psalm 106:34-43

There are numerous reasons for this type of sacrifice – all superstitious/demonic.

1. It was supposed that the god's anger was only _____ by offering an innocent life.
2. It was supposed that the god, in some way, needed an innocent life/baby for continued _____.
3. It was supposed that the gods demanded a sacrifice of an innocent life/baby to _____ future fertility of both family and farm.

v. 38 Q. What else did God's people do?

A.

1. The _____ God's sanctuary. Cp. chpt. 8
2. They _____ my Sabbaths. Referring to all the required convocations that involved rest (no work).

v. 39 Q. What example does God give of the desecration?

A.

1. They desecrate it by living a _____ life.
2. They desecrate it by bringing something impure/unholy into the house of the Lord – _____.

3. They desecrate it by violating the _____
commandment – having other gods beside the one true
god.

vv. 40-41 Q. What else did she do to offend God?

A. They gave that which was specifically for the _____ of
God to foreigners through seductive measures.

Note: This is an apt description of what a _____ would do to
entrap a young man. Cp. Jeremiah 4:30

v. 42 Q. What is this referring to?

A. It is referring to the early days when the alliance through
_____ brought a _____ benefit.

v. 43 Q. What does this mean?

A. Her _____ has been diminished. She has been relegated
to a _____.

v. 44 Q. What was validated?

A. And they _____ her as such.

v. 45 Q. Who is being spoken of in this verse?

A. The _____. They are righteous in the sense that they
are _____ of God.

v. 46 Q. What does God do about her actions?

A.

1. God will set the _____ (like an angry mob) upon them because not only are they of no value but are _____.
2. They will be "given over" to _____ and plunder or _____ to the soldiers and slave traders.

v. 47 Q. What does God say that this mob will do?

A. _____ them and their homes.

v. 48 Q. What is the intent?

A.

1. To put an end to their _____ adultery in the land.
2. To serve as a _____ to other nations not to follow your example.

v. 49 Q. What is the summation?

A.

1. You will bear the _____ of your sin.
2. You will _____ that I am the Sovereign Lord
[Recognition Formula]

Application Questions:

Q. What are our unholy alliances?

A.

Q. What does it mean for God to “give us over” to the objects of our lust?

A.

Q. How is our pursuit of other gods a futile attempt at fulfilling one's deepest needs?

A.

Q. How do we defile our own places of worship?

A.

1. Tangibly?

2. Intangibly?

Q. How do we apply the following passages of Scripture?

A.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

2. Matthew 20:22-23

3. Matthew 6:24

4. Mark 10:14-16