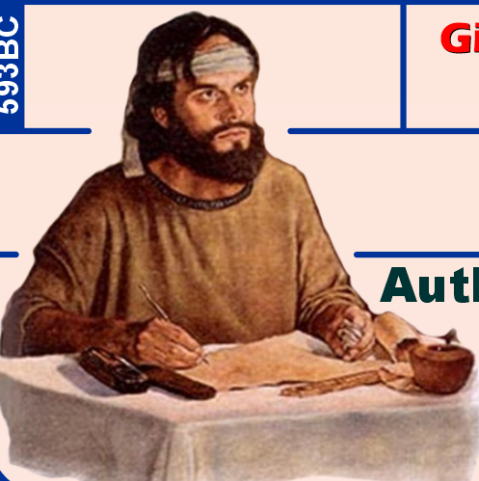


FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

16a

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic									
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48							
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Babylonia (26) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God							
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC	
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying <u>JUDGMENT</u>					
								The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying <u>HOPE</u>					
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)													
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old													
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old													
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old													
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old													

3 PARABLES ON JUDGMENT

Ezekiel 15-17

3 PARABLES ON JUDGMENT — EZEKIEL 15-17

- **Ezekiel 15, Unprofitable Vine of Jerusalem**
(Ek.15:1-8)
- **Ezekiel 16, Jerusalem's History as a Prostitute**
(Ek.16:1-63)
- **Ezekiel 17, Riddle and Parable of the Two Eagles**
(Ek.17:1-24)

JERUSALEM'S HISTORY AS A PROSTITUTE

Ezekiel 16:1-63

**Again the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**



EZEKIEL 16:1



Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.16:1)

- **Ezekiel begins a new parable describing Jerusalem as a prostitute.**
- **He will use language of the birth of Jerusalem.**



**"Son of man, cause Jerusalem
to know her abominations,**

EZEKIEL 16:2

"Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, (Ek.16:2)

- While Ezekiel had the people of Jerusalem in mind through most of this parable, this seems to allude to the city of Jerusalem itself.**
- The city's early inhabitants were called Jebusites (Jg.19:10-12).**
- The Lord instructed Ezekiel to make the detestable practices of the people of Jerusalem known to them.**
- He prophesied to the exiles, but his message presented the people of Jerusalem as the primary object of his attention.**



**and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to
Jerusalem: "Your birth and your
nativity are from the land of
Canaan; your father was an Amorite
and your mother a Hittite.**

EZEKIEL 16:3



and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. (Ek.16:3)

- In this parable Jerusalem represents the people of the city, but it is the people of Jerusalem throughout Israel's history that are particularly in view.**
- Amorites and Hittites were two of the Canaanite peoples, and they often represent all the Canaanites in the Old Testament (Ge.10:15-16; 15:16; Nu.13:29).**
- The Jebusites, who occupied Jerusalem from its earliest mention in Scripture, were another Canaanite tribe.**



and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. (Ek.16:3)

- In this parable on Jerusalem's unfaithfulness, Ezekiel pictured her as an unwanted child of a mixed union.**
- Israel, of course, descended from Shem (Ge.10:21-31). By contrast Jerusalem, before it was conquered by David (1Ch.11:4-9), was a Canaanite city. Canaan descended from Ham, not Shem (Ge.10:6-20).**



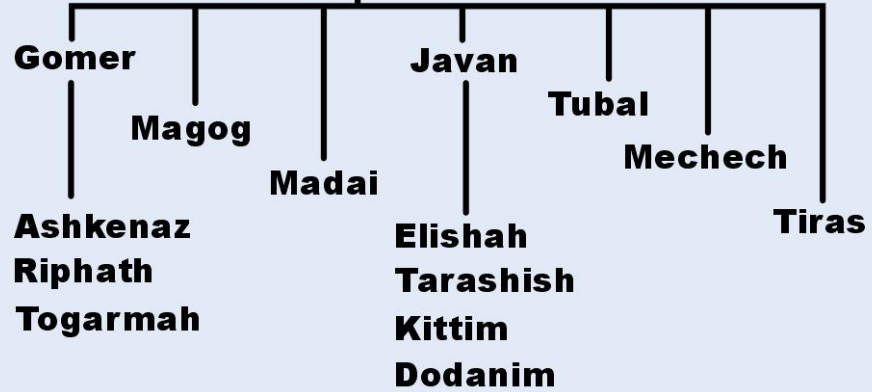
and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. (Ek.16:3)

- Why then did Ezekiel say that Jerusalem's father was an Amorite and mother a Hittite?**
- Perhaps the pagan Jebusites were associated with and were apparently like the Amorites and Hittites.**
- This association may be suggested in the Table of Nations, which lists the Jebusites between the Hittites and Amorites (Ge.10:15-16)**

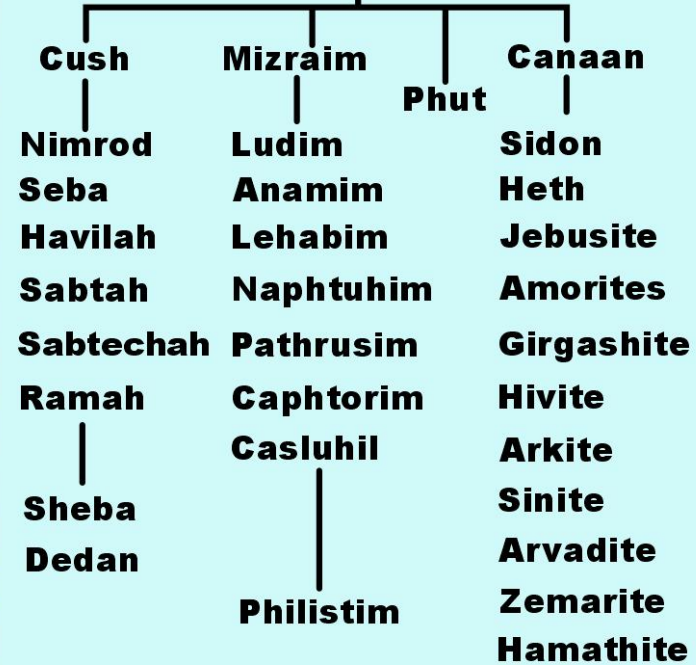


Noah

Japheth (Ge.10:2-4)



Ham (Ge.10:6-20)



Shem (Ge.10:21-31)

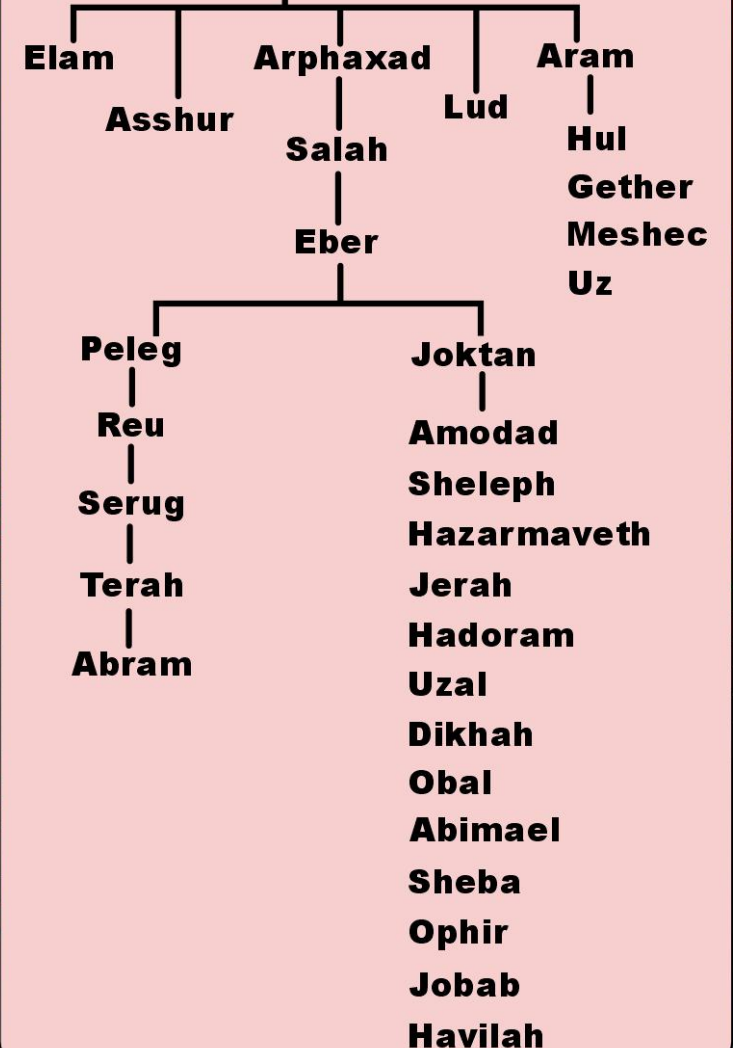


TABLE OF NATIONS

Genesis 10

**As for your nativity, on the day you
were born your navel cord was not cut,
nor were you washed in water to
cleanse you; you were not rubbed with
salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.**

EZEKIEL 16:4



As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. (Ek.16:4)

- Jerusalem's founders, before the founding of the nation of Israel, were Amorites and Hittites, not Hebrews.**
- Jerusalem was not an outstanding city from its founding.**
- When the Israelites entered the land in Joshua's day, they did not take Jerusalem (Js.15:63).**
- Many other cities in Canaan had better situations geographically, had better physical resources, and were more easily defensible militarily.**



As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. (Ek.16:4)

- **The early beginnings of Jerusalem were like those of an unwanted child.**
- **Normally after a baby is born the umbilical cord is cut.**
- **In biblical times a newborn was washed to remove the blood and vernix and was rubbed with salt to dry and firm the skin.**
- **Then the infant was wrapped in cloth for warmth and covering.**



No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.

EZEKIEL 16:5



No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. (Ek.16:5)

- But for Jerusalem these things were not done.**
- No one looked on her with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for her.**
- Also the baby (Jerusalem) was thrown out into the open field, for she was despised.**
- The cruel practice of infanticide was prevalent in the ancient world. Unwanted and deformed children were cast out at birth and left to die.**



**"And when I passed by you and
saw you struggling in your own
blood, I said to you in your blood,
'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your
blood, 'Live!'"**

EZEKIEL 16:6



"And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' (Ek.16:6)

- As God noticed the struggling infant wallowing helplessly (kicking about in her blood), He came to her aid.**
- The life of the infant was hanging in the balance till God ordained her survival: I said to you, Live!**
- The city remained as an unwanted child until, at the Lord's direction, David captured it from the Jebusites and made it the capital of his kingdom (2Sm.5:6-10).**



I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

EZEKIEL 16:7



I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. (Ek.16:7)

- **During the reigns of David and Solomon, Jerusalem was one of the most highly respected cities in the ancient Near East.**
- **The child lived and grew to maturity like a plant of the field. The modern equivalent of that comparison is “She grew like a weed.”**
- **As time went by, this baby grew into a young woman. Yet she was still naked and bare, and in a destitute state.**



"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 16:8



"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.16:8)

- God again passed by Jerusalem and noticed that she was old enough for love, that is, of marriageable age.**
- God then entered into a covenant of marriage with her.**
- The symbolic act of spreading the lower part of one's garment over another signified protection and betrothal (Ru.3:9).**
- The historical event to which this alludes could be the appointment of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and God's dwelling place.**



**"Then I washed you in water;
yes, I thoroughly washed off
your blood, and I anointed you
with oil.**

EZEKIEL 16:9



"Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. (Ek.16:9)

- **The abandoned who had the stench of blood was washed and anointed with ointments, or expensive perfumes.**
- **The Lord prepared her for a special relationship with Himself.**
- **God cleansed and anointed her.**



**I clothed you in embroidered cloth
and gave you sandals of badger
skin; I clothed you with fine linen
and covered you with silk.**

EZEKIEL 16:10



**I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin;
I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. (Ek.16:10)**

- **The girl who was naked now received an embroidered dress, leather sandals, fine linen, and costly garments.**
- **These gifts were marriage gifts customarily presented to a queen.**



**I adorned you with ornaments,
put bracelets on your wrists,
and a chain on your neck.**

EZEKIEL 16:11



I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. (Ek.16:11)

- **These were Jerusalem's glory days under Solomon's rule (1Ki.10:4-5).**



**And I put a jewel in your nose,
earrings in your ears, and a
beautiful crown on your head.**

EZEKIEL 16:12



**And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears,
and a beautiful crown on your head. (Ek.16:12)**

- **The “ring” was clipped to the outer part of a nostril and was worn as jewelry with bracelets and earrings (Ge.24:47; Is.3:21).**



Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty.

EZEKIEL 16:13



Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. (Ek.16:13)

- **God clothed His betrothed in splendor befitting a queen.**
- **Besides receiving expensive jewelry and fine clothes Jerusalem also was given the choicest foods: fine flour, honey, and olive oil.**
- **She had the best jewelry and clothes. She also ate the best food.**
- **She became a royal city that was home to the Davidic dynasty of kings.**



Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 16:14



Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.16:14)

- **All this suggests that under God's blessing, during the reigns of David and Solomon, Jerusalem became a magnificent city (1Ki.10:4-5).**
- **Everything she could possibly need or want was lavished on her by her gracious, generous "Husband."**
- **Other nations even commented on her beauty since it was so extraordinary because of the grace the Lord had bestowed on her (1Ki.10; 1Ch.14:17; Lm.2:15).**
- **Israel was actually a small kingdom, but with a great reputation (1Ki.10).**



**"But you trusted in your own
beauty, played the harlot
because of your fame, and
poured out your harlotry on
everyone passing by who
would have it.**

EZEKIEL 16:15



"But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. (Ek.16:15)

- **Had Ezekiel's parable ended here, it would have been a beautiful rags-to-riches love story.**
- **But he added a bizarre twist to make the story correspond to the remainder of Jerusalem's history.**
- **He pictured the unfaithfulness of this woman who was made a queen (Ek.16:15-34).**
- **Jerusalem's gaze turned from her Benefactor to her beauty, and she became proud (she used her fame to become a prostitute).**



"But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. (Ek.16:15)

- Jerusalem became self-centered and unfaithful to the Lord; she forgot Him when she became preoccupied with His blessings (Du.6:10-12).**
- She went after every people that passed by rather than remaining faithful to God.**
- Under King Solomon, Jerusalem became the greatest city of her day.**
- But Solomon led the Jerusalemites into spiritual adultery by making alliances (covenants) with other nations and by establishing idolatry in the land (1Ki.11:1-13; Du.17:14-20).**



**You took some of your garments
and adorned multicolored high
places for yourself, and played
the harlot on them. Such things
should not happen, nor be.**

EZEKIEL 16:16



You took some of your garments and adorned multicolored high places for yourself, and played the harlot on them. Such things should not happen, nor be. (Ek.16:16)

- **Jerusalem forgot the One who had supplied her with her wealth, and turned away from Him (Du.6:10-12; 8:10-20).**
- **She took some of her garments to make gaudy high places, false worship centers usually situated on high hills.**



**You have also taken your beautiful
jewelry from My gold and My
silver, which I had given you, and
made for yourself male images
and played the harlot with them.**

EZEKIEL 16:17



You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them. (Ek.16:17)

- **She basked in her beauty and prostituted herself to other gods.**
- **Beginning in Solomon's reign (1Ki.11:7-13), and continuing till her fall to Nebuchadnezzar, Jerusalem turned from God to idolatry.**
- **She had times of revival, but her general trend was downward.**



You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them. (Ek.16:17)

- Ezekiel used vivid imagery to drive home the truth of the vileness of Jerusalem's sin.**
- He pictured her taking her jewelry to make a phallic image with which she engaged in sex.**
- Similarly the people of Jerusalem took the material benefits given by God to make idols of false gods and committed spiritual adultery with them.**



**You took your embroidered
garments and covered them,
and you set My oil and My
incense before them.**

EZEKIEL 16:18



**You took your embroidered garments and covered them,
and you set My oil and My incense before them. (Ek.16:18)**

- **The very blessings God had bestowed on the city were used to worship the false gods.**
- **Jerusalem used the gifts that God had given her to make idols and to worship them rather than her Lord (2Ki.23:7; Je.10:9).**



**Also My food which I gave you—the
pastry of fine flour, oil, and honey
which I fed you—you set it before
them as sweet incense; and so it
was," says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 16:19



Also My food which I gave you—the pastry of fine flour, oil, and honey which I fed you—you set it before them as sweet incense; and so it was," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.16:19)

- **This is a general summary of the nation's idolatry as she gave herself to the religious practices of the Canaanites.**
- **Every gracious gift from God was devoted to idols.**



**"Moreover you took your sons and
your daughters, whom you bore to
Me, and these you sacrificed to them
to be devoured. Were your acts of
harlotry a small matter,**

EZEKIEL 16:20



"Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, (Ek.16:20)

- Jerusalem also offered up her own sons and daughters as human sacrifices (as food) to these false idols.**
- The Canaanite practice of child sacrifice was forbidden to the Israelites (Le.18:21; 20:2-5; Du.12:31).**
- Evidently, the idolaters first slew the children and then burned their dead bodies as sacrifices.**



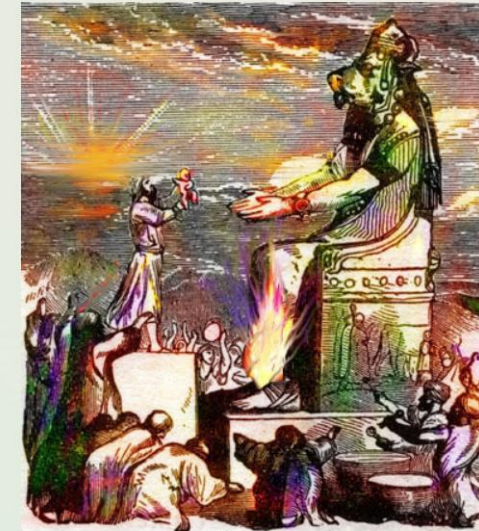
**that you have slain My children
and offered them up to them
by causing them to pass
through the fire?**

EZEKIEL 16:21



that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire? (Ek.16:21)

- In Ammon, parents killed their children and offered them in fires to entreat the god Molech's favor.**



- Jerusalem went so far as slaying her own children as sacrifices to idols disregarding the fact that they were also the Lord's children (2Ki.16:3; 21:6; 23:10; 2Ch.28:3; Je.32:35; Lv.18:21; 20:1-5; Du.12:30-32).**



**And in all your abominations and
acts of harlotry you did not
remember the days of your youth,
when you were naked and bare,
struggling in your blood.**

EZEKIEL 16:22



And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood. (Ek.16:22)

- The practice crept into the nation of Israel, and by Ezekiel's time child sacrifice was practiced openly in Jerusalem (2Ki.21:6; Je.7:30-31; 32:35).**
- Jerusalem had strayed far from her "Husband"; she had forgotten all His blessings.**
- In her pride she forgot who had saved her from her destitute state as a neglected newborn and had elevated her to her exalted position.**
- Many believers today tend to forget what Christ has done for them on the cross and all the blessings he has poured out on them.**



**"Then it was so, after all
your wickedness—'Woe,
woe to you!' says the
Lord GOD—**

EZEKIEL 16:23



"Then it was so, after all your wickedness—'Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord GOD— (Ek.16:23)

- **Because of their idolatry God pronounced a lament of horror on her (1Sm.4:8; Pr.23:29; Is.3:9).**
- **This section, partly woe and partly lament, spoke to Judah's obsession with idolatry and her being influenced by Egypt (Ek.16:26), the Philistines (Ek.16:27), Assyria (Ek.16:28), and Babylon (Ek.16:29).**



**that you also built for yourself
a shrine, and made a high
place for yourself in every
street.**

EZEKIEL 16:24



that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. (Ek.16:24)

- **Jerusalem multiplied shrines to idols everywhere.**



- **She became a militant advocate of idolatry, not just a practitioner of it.**
- **She also made her beauty abominable by prostituting herself to every passerby.**



**You built your high places at the
head of every road, and made
your beauty to be abhorred. You
offered yourself to everyone
who passed by, and multiplied
your acts of harlotry.**

EZEKIEL 16:25



You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry. (Ek.16:25)

- **Jerusalem developed an ever-deepening lust for idols.**
- **Her harlotry moved from the “high places” to the highways as shrines to foreign gods were erected at every intersection (in every public square) and on every street.**



**You also committed harlotry with
the Egyptians, your very fleshly
neighbors, and increased your
acts of harlotry to provoke Me
to anger.**

EZEKIEL 16:26



You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger. (Ek.16:26)

- **Her desire for idolatry drove her to seek out “lovers” promiscuously to satisfy her lust.**
- **She pursued foreign alliances as well as foreign gods.**
- **She committed adultery with her lustful neighbor, the Egyptians, and multiplied the instances of her harlotry thus angering the Lord.**



**"Behold, therefore, I stretched out My
hand against you, diminished your
allotment, and gave you up to the will
of those who hate you, the daughters
of the Philistines, who were ashamed
of your lewd behavior.**

EZEKIEL 16:27



"Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. (Ek.16:27)

- God did not stand quietly by while His “wife” debased herself.**
- He tried to curb her appetite by imposing judgment.**
- He reduced her territory (i.e., land governed by Jerusalem) and gave her over to the Philistines.**



"Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. (Ek.16:27)

- The Philistines attacked Judah and Jerusalem in the reigns of Jehoram (2Ch.21:16-17) and Ahaz (2Ch.28:16-19).**
- Even the Philistines were shocked by Jerusalem's lewd conduct.**
- The Philistines worshiped idols, but at least they remained faithful to their own gods.**
- God gave her into the hands of the Philistines, pagan people who nonetheless were repulsed by her lewd behavior (2Ch.21:16-17; 28:16-19; Is.1:7-8).**



**You also played the harlot with
the Assyrians, because you were
insatiable; indeed you played
the harlot with them and still
were not satisfied.**

EZEKIEL 16:28



You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. (Ek.16:28)

- **She committed adultery with the distant Assyrians as well, but they did not satisfy her lust (2Ki.15:19-20; 16:7-18).**
- **Political alliances normally involved the weaker party taking the gods of the stronger ally into its religious system. This is how much idolatry entered Jerusalem.**



**Moreover you multiplied your acts
of harlotry as far as the land of
the trader, Chaldea; and even
then you were not satisfied.**

EZEKIEL 16:29



Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied. (Ek.16:29)

- **Her whoredoms included Egypt (Ek.16:26), Assyria (Ek.16:28), and Babylon (Ek.16:29).**
- **Mentioning these nations implies not only Jerusalem's desire for new foreign gods to worship but also her foreign intrigues and alliances.**
- **Adultery with the merchant Chaldeans or the Egyptians did not satisfy her (2Ki.20:12-19; Is.20:5-6; 30:1-5; 31:1).**



FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL 16a