

Israel the Unfaithful Wife: Ezekiel 16

Ariel Ministries Australia



16:1-5

Jerusalem: The Abandoned Child



The Word of Jehovah – 16:1

- In the form of an allegory
 - Very sexually graphic
- Rabbis said it must not be read in public



The Purpose – 16:2 (1/2)

- **‘Son of man’ – Man in human frailty and weakness in contrast to God**
 - **When used of Messiah it emphasizes His humanity**



The Purpose – 16:2 (2/2)

- **Purpose – To cause Jerusalem to know her abominations**
- **Woman represents Jerusalem and Jerusalem represents the nation**

Circumstances of Israel's Birth

16:3-5



Her Genealogy – 16:3

- **Origin: The Land of the Canaanite – Emphasis on moral rather than physical aspects**
- **Amorite – Genesis 10:16; 15:16; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 5:1; 7:7; 10:5; 24:15, 18; Amos 2:10**
- **Hittite – Genesis 15:19; Numbers 13:29; Joshua 1:4**



Abandoned at Birth – 16:4

- **Navel not cut – If the umbilical cord isn't cut the baby will die when the placenta ceased to function**
- **Wasn't washed and cleansed of all impurities**
- **Not salted – For a more thorough cleansing**
 - **Not swaddled – Left exposed to die**



Abandoned to Die – 16:5

- **Abandoned without mercy to die**
- **Jerusalem – Pre-Patriarchal period**
- **The Nation – Patriarchal period**



16:6-14

The Marriage

The First Passing By

16:6-7



The Saving of Life – 16:6

- **God decreed that Israel will live**
- **Preserved due to Joseph in Egypt**



The Growth – 16:7

- **Nation multiplied in Egypt – Exodus 1:7; Acts 7:17 (v7a)**
 - **Israel's exaltation (v7b)**
 - **Developed into maturity (v7c)**
- **Period from the death of Joseph to Moses**

The Second Passing By

16:8



16:8 (1/2)

- **‘Time of love’ – Sexual love, intimate relationship**
- **Spreading the skirt and covering nakedness was an act of espousal and marriage – Ruth 3:9**
- **Mosaic Covenant – Exodus 24:8; Deuteronomy 5:2**
 - **‘Mine’: Israel became a wife – Exodus 19:5-6**



16:8 (2/2)

- **The time of the Exodus – Exodus 2:24-25; 19:5-6**
- **Prophets looked upon this as a marriage covenant –
Jeremiah 2:2; 3:1-18; Hosea 1:1 – 3:5**

The Beautification and Exaltation of Israel

16:9-14



16:9-10

- **The washing: Washed and anointed – Ready for marriage (v9)**
- **The clothing: Costliest of materials – That of a princess (v10)**



Bridal Gifts of Jewellery – 16:11-12

- **Marriage gifts – Genesis 24:47; Hosea 2:13**
- **Period of David and Solomon – I Kings 10:1-29;
Lamentations 2:15**



Her Wealth – 16:13

- **Israel's empire status under David and Solomon**
 - **Parallel passage is Hosea 2:8**



Her Reputation – 16:14

- Spread among the nations
 - All due to God's majesty
- Empires of David and Solomon



16:15-34

The Great Adultery

It's Origin and Nature: Idolatry

16:15-22



The Origin – 16:15

- **Basis: Trusting in her own beauty and not her Husband**
 - **Actions: Began to act as a prostitute**
 - **Same point is made in Jeremiah 3:2**



Payment of Adultery – 16:16-19

- **Garments:** Used these for idolatrous tents – II Kings 23:7 (v16)
- **Jewellery:** God's things and made household gods (v17)
 - **Wedding gifts:** Become clothing for the idols (v18)
 - **Food items:** Offered up to these false gods (v19)



The Nature of Her Idolatry – 16:20-21

- Israel was to raise up a godly seed in Deuteronomy 6
 - This seed was being sacrificed to Moloch
 - Forbidden in Leviticus 18:21
- Practice: II Kings 16:3; 21:6; 23:10; Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 32:35



The Result – 16:22

- **Israel had completely forgotten her past**

Extent and Magnitude of the Adultery

16:23-29



Extent and Magnitude – 16:23-25

- **The wickedness (v23)**
- **Idolatry: Shrines built, statues in every street of Jerusalem (v24)**
- **Adultery: Used beauty to attract lovers and self-exposed (v25)**



16:26-29

Political Alliances



Egypt – 16:26-27

- **Adultery: Worshipped the Egyptian gods**
 - **Reason: To provoke God to anger**
- **Punishment: A decrease in material possessions and delivered to the Philistines**
 - **Fulfillment: II Chronicles 28:18**



Assyria – 16:28

- **The worship of Assyrian gods**
- **Israel was insatiable and unsatisfied**



Chaldea – 16:29

- **The worship of the gods of the Chaldeans**
- **Deeper and deeper into spiritual adultery**

The Degree of Degradation

16:30-34



Impudent Harlot – 16:30-31

- **Weakness of the heart – Towards God (v30)**
- **Nature of her idolatry: Created multitudes of idols – Received no payment but paid her lovers (v31)**



The Adulterous Wife – 16:32

- Israel commits adultery
- Takes strangers instead of her husband
- Statement of extreme disdain and disgust



Uniqueness of Her Harlotry – 16:33-34

- **Giver of harlotry gifts (v33)**
 - **No followers (v34)**



16:35-43

The Punishment of Israel



16:35-38 (1/2)

- **The Word of Jehovah: Punishment will correspond to the sin (v35)**
 - **Cause of judgment: Idolatry and human sacrifice (v36)**



16:35-38 (2/2)

- **Means of punishment: Her lovers – Hosea 2:10;
Lamentations 1:2 (v37)**
- **Nature of punishment: Judged as an adulteress and
murderess with the judgment of wrath, blood and jealousy
(v38)**



Four Stages of Punishment – 16:39-41a

- **Destruction of the idolatrous centers (v39a)**

- **The stripping: Reduced to as God found her (v39b)**
 - **Execution: Stoning and sword (v40)**
 - **The burning (v41a)**



The Results – 16:41b-42

- **On the wife (v41b)**
- **On the husband (v42)**



Summary – 16:43

- **The punishment is perfectly just:**
 - **First – Israel's sins**
 - **Second – God's punishment**



16:44-52

The Comparison to Sodom and Samaria

The Application of a Proverb

16:44-47



Introduction – 16:44

- **The proverb:**
 - **‘Like father, like son’**



The Meaning of the Proverb – 16:45-46

- Reflection of a family trait (v45a)
- Jerusalem had followed the sins of her parents (v45b)
 - Jerusalem now compared to her sisters (v46)



The Comparison – 16:47

- **Negative – She did not follow them (v47a)**
- **Positive – She was more corrupt in all her ways (v47b)**

The Comparison to Sodom

16:48-50



The Sin of Sodom – 16:48-50a

- **Pride towards God**

- **Trusting in prosperity and false security**

- **Did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy**
 - **Haughty towards men**

- **Abominations: Idolatry and homosexuality**



The Judgment – 16:50b

- God took them away
- Same point is made in Matthew 11:23-24 – Jerusalem is more guilty because of greater revelation

The Comparison to Samaria

16:51-52



Comparison With Samaria – 16:51a

- Samaria had committed only half of the sins
- Jerusalem has the greater guilt because of more revelation



The Indictment – 16:51b-52

- Abominations multiplied
- Sodom and Samaria had become relatively more righteous than Jerusalem



16:53-59

The Restoration of Sodom and Samaria



The Return – 16:53-55

- **Return from captivity: All three of them (v53)**
- **Purpose: Jerusalem will bear her shame and be a comfort to Sodom and Samaria (v54)**
- **Return to their possessions: Return to their former estates and be in the Kingdom (v55)**



The Wickedness of Jerusalem – 16:56-58

- **Sodom: Not mentioned due to its reputation (v56)**
- **Jerusalem: Spoke proudly of Sodom's sin (v57)**
- **Sin of Jerusalem: Adultery through idolatry (v58)**



The Punishment of the Covenant – 16:59

- **Punishment is on the basis of sin**
- **A reference to breaking the Mosaic Covenant**
 - **A breaking of her marriage vows**



16:60-63

The Remarriage of Israel



The Basis – 16:60

- **God will remember the Mosaic Covenant which He made with Israel in the days of her youth – Jeremiah 2:2**
- **God will establish an everlasting covenant which is the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31:31-34**
- **This New Covenant will be the basis of the remarriage**



The Repentance – 16:61

- Israel will repent of her sins of adultery
- Israel will receive her sisters who will be part of Jerusalem's possession
- The New Covenant will be the basis

Establishment of the Covenant

16:62-63



Covenant Established – 16:62a

- God will establish His covenant with them
- This is the **New Covenant** of **Jeremiah 31:31-34**



Results – 16:62b-63a

- Know who Jehovah is

- Remember deeds of unfaithfulness
 - Confounded

- Never open her mouth again



Time and Basis – 16:63b

- **When God has forgiven them of all they have done**
 - **Israel's national salvation**