

Ezekiel

Chapters 15 -16

Ezekiel Chapter 15

“1 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 2 “Son of man, how is the wood of the vine better than any other wood, the vine branch which is among the trees of the forest? 3 Is wood taken from it to make any object? Or can men make a peg from it to hang any vessel on? 4 Instead, it is thrown into the fire for fuel; the fire devours both ends of it, and its middle is burned. Is it useful for any work? 5 Indeed, when it was whole, no object could be made from it. How much less will it be useful for any work when the fire has devoured it, and it is burned?”

6 “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem; 7 and I will set My face against them. They will go out from one fire, but another fire shall devour them. ***Then you shall know that I am the Lord*** when I set My face against them. 8 Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have persisted in unfaithfulness,’ says the Lord God.”

“God asks the prophet this question concerning the use of a vine compared to a tree. God notes that a vine cannot be used for woodworking (such as making furniture) and is not strong enough to make wooden pins used to hang vessels on the wall. The imagery here is that a vine is good as long as it produces fruit and Israel was no longer a good, fruit-producing vine. Once a vine ceases to produce, it is used to fuel fire. Jerusalem was now like a useless, fruitless vine and would become the fuel for the blaze that would occur when the Babylonians set the city on fire during the invasion.” Perry Stone, OT, Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1252.

Ezekiel Chapter 16

“1 Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, 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.

“Abraham went from the land of Ur to Canaan; thus, Israel’s early history was rooted in the land of Canaan (See: Gen. 12:5-6). However, ‘Father’ Abraham was not an Amorite and Sarah, the “mother” of Israel, was not an Hittite. Just as Isaiah called the rulers of Judah “Sodom” (Isaiah 1:10), here God is comparing Israel and their abominations to the strong pagan tribes of the Amorites and the Hittites, saying that now they are the children of these idolatrous people.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1253.

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. 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.

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!’ 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.

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.

9 “Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 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. 11 I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. 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. 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.

“The passage begins by describing the normal procedure of an infant’s birth and comparing it to wayward Israel: the umbilical cord is not cut, the infant is not washed nor rubbed with salt, and the newborn is left in the field to be devoured by the wild beasts. However, God passed by when Israel was young and

commanded the nation to live, multiplying them into a mature, healthy nation and entering into a 'love' covenant with Israel. They were washed, anointed, and clothed; they were given bracelets, chains, earrings, jewels on the forehead, a crown, and gold and silver; they eat the best food and prosper in their kingdom. This is imagery of a wealthy man who has betrothed a woman and she has become the queen in the kingdom. This is how God views Israel when He begins to honor and bless the nation's obedience to His covenant." Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1253.

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

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

23 "Then it was so, after all your wickedness—'Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord God— 24 that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. 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. 26 You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.

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

30 “How degenerate is your heart!” says the Lord God, “seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen harlot.

31 “You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment. 32 You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband. 33 Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry. 34 You are the opposite of other women in your harlotry, because no one solicited you to be a harlot. In that you gave payment but no payment was given you, therefore you are the opposite.”

35 Now then, O harlot, hear the word of the Lord! 36 Thus says the Lord God: “Because your filthiness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your harlotry with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children which you gave to them, 37 surely, therefore, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved, and all those you hated; I will gather them from all around against you and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

“Despite God’s amazing blessings, Israel engaged in idol worship and used their gold and silver to fashion idols. They also used their embroidered garments to dress their idolatrous images and presented oil and incense as an offering to them. The Israelites even used the food that would have been used at the temple for the priest and offered it on the altars of their idols. They also worshipped Molech by offering their children to him through the fire. Israel forgot their early blessing from God. The high places were moved from the hills to the streets and highways. One of the first judgments was a famine and the second was the delivering of Israel to the will of her enemies. Israel joined with the idol worshippers of Egypt and the Assyrians. God calls Israel an adulterer, as she has been given to other lovers.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1253.

38 And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.

“Under Moses Law, a woman guilty of adultery was sentenced to death by stoning. See: Lev. 20:10; John 8:3-5. The Law of Moses called for an ‘eye for an eye, tooth for tooth,’ and life for life. See: Exodus 21:23-26. Here, God pronounces a death sentence on the adulterous whoredoms of Israel.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1254.

39 I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.

“The Babylonians stripped the people, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple of all their wealth, fulfilling this prediction.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1254.

40 “They shall also bring up an assembly against you, and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords

“Stones were used in catapults to break down the walls of the city.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1254.

41 They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will make you cease playing the harlot, and you shall no longer hire lovers. 42 So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more. 43 Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but agitated Me with all these things, surely I will also recompense your deeds on your own head,” says the Lord God. “And you shall not commit lewdness in addition to all your abominations.

44 “Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: ‘Like mother, like daughter!’ 45 You are your mother’s daughter, loathing husband and children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children; your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

46 “Your elder sister is Samaria, who dwells with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who dwells to the south of you, is Sodom and her daughters. 47 You did not walk in their ways nor act according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, you became more corrupt than they in all your ways.

48 “As I live,” says the Lord God, “neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. 49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore; I took them away as I saw fit. 51 “Samaria did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they and have justified your sisters by all the abominations which you have done. 52 You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be disgraced also, and bear your own shame, because you justified your sisters.

“God continues exposing Israel’s sins, calling Israel a sister to Samaria and Sodom, two cities known for perversion and wickedness that were both destroyed. Samaria was ravaged by invading armies, and Sodom was burned by the fire of God’s judgment. The sins of Sodom were being repeated in Israel: pride, abundance of bread, idleness, lack of care for the poor, haughtiness, and abominations. Notice that Samaria had not committed half the sins of Israel. In previous times, the righteous men of Israel would have shamed the Samaritans and Sodomites with their righteousness, but now they are the hypocrites filled with shame.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1255.

53 “When I bring back their captives, the captives of Sodom and her daughters, and the captives of Samaria and her daughters, then I will also bring back the captives of your captivity among them, 54 that you may bear your own shame and be disgraced by all that you did when you comforted them. 55 When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters return to their former state, then you and your daughters will return to your former state.

“The daughters of Sodom would be the smaller cities around her in the time of her existence, and the daughters of Samaria would be the surrounding smaller cities in the region.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1255.

56 For your sister Sodom was not a byword in your mouth in the days of your pride, 57 before your wickedness was uncovered. It was like the time of the reproach of the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and of the daughters of the Philistines, who despise you everywhere. 58 You have paid for your lewdness and your abominations,” says the Lord. 59 For thus says the Lord God: “I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

60 “Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. 61 Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. **62 And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord,** 63 that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done,” says the Lord God.’”

“After all the rebukes and warnings, God said He would “remember my covenant”, which He made with Israel in the days of her youth. This refers to the covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and to the promise of the land and blessing upon the seed of Abraham. God will establish his covenant with Israel again.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1255.