

<Aholah and Aholibah>

Ezekiel 23:1 – 24:27

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~ If there is one thing you should be learning in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is the timelessness of the Scriptures. If you are not finding these prophecies of Ezekiel equally as relevant to your life today as the messages of the Gospel writers, then there is something radically wrong in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. If the Word of God doesn't grab hold of our hearts when we come to a doctrinally sound understanding of Ezekiel, then we need to examine ourselves to determine if we are truly in the faith; because, whether you are a newly-born babe in Christ, or a seasoned spiritual veteran, the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Bible should be more up-to-date than tomorrow mornings newspapers. There is always something new to learn and apply to our lives. Subsequently, the subjects of study are viewed from new perspectives of increasing difficulty — depths of understanding we could never begin to contemplate naturally, and said level of comprehension continues its ascent; irrespective of how many times we have traversed any one particular section of Scripture.

This prophecy began in chapter twenty, and continues on through chapter twenty-four. These are messages God gave to Ezekiel to instruct the first two delegations of Jewish captives that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Israel to Babylon as slaves. The Israelite's were still hanging onto the erroneous teaching of the false prophets, who were saying that God would never decimate the entire land of Israel, would not destroy Jerusalem, or kill all of the remaining inhabitants of Judah, nor would He allow Solomon's Temple to be crushed and burned. After all, these were *His chosen people*, Israel was the *Apple of His eye*, the temple was His sanctuary and His Shekinah Glory had been there. So, they held onto the erroneous belief; and the false prophets encouraged them by deception and lies – making the captives feel at ease in their idolatry. The result was the people did not feel it was necessary to repent, turn back to God, and get back into a right relationship with Him. They honestly and sincerely – but erroneously –

thought everything was just fine between them and the Lord. They should have listened. But, they would not.

Today, perhaps the most subtle deception that takes place in modern churches is that members receive a eulogy before they even die – and then another at their funerals – when they were really Godless blasphemers all along. Some well-meaning preacher comes along and tries to push them through the gates of Heaven, in an effort to ease tormented minds in the surviving family and friends. Well, my friends, without discerning and appropriately conveying God's mind on this matter, we perpetuate a tragic, reckless, and irresponsible disservice to everyone involved. The unsaved man and woman who attend that type of funeral service start to believe in their own goodness; and they measure it by what they have seen and heard – and they quickly deduce that they don't need a Savior. That's the way it works; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it – or not. Naturally, I think we should be very careful about what we say at a time like that; but it *MUST – MUST – MUST* be the absolute truth – because the false prophets were doing the same thing in Ezekiel's day – and, as a result, what we are about to read is simply not nice.

Most of you dear readers know I am neither a preacher nor a pastor; but, rather, I am just a poor Bible teacher. One of the reasons I don't preach is because I feel like I would have to give one message to the saved man, and another message to the unsaved crowd – and that would cause the Lord to relieve me of my duties – which I never want to happen. Frankly, if I stood up to a congregation and gave the message that God has placed on my heart, they would walk out – probably shouting profanity at me as they left. See, Ezekiel has really been laying this all on the line with his people. Remember, in chapter twenty, Ezekiel gave a prophecy regarding the Negeb; meaning the southern part of Israel around Beersheba. God said He was going to kindle a fire in the forests of that region. Well, if you travel over there today, you will discover there simply aren't any forests around. There is literally no significant vegetation growing there in any form. Candidly, you won't find a tree that is bigger than the arm of an average man. What happened to the forest? – God judged it exactly as He said He would.

Moreover, in chapter twenty-one, Ezekiel prophesied that no one would sit on the throne of David after Zedekiah until the Lord Jesus Christ comes. Well, that's exactly how it has worked out; and that's what the angel was talking about, when he said to Mary, "... I shall give unto Him the throne of His father David." It is always helpful to have Ezekiel around at Christmas time to clarify what's being talked about by who to whom. Only through a correct view of eschatology can we ever hope to get the full picture of what the angel was talking to Mary about. The background of these prophets, the history of the Old Testament, and how it all relates to the New Testament teachings are woefully neglected today; and it is the primary reason why we have the uber-liberal messages filling our churches – messages that do not save people, messages that will ultimately turn the lost world away from the church, messages that create super-duper pious pygmies who call themselves saints, but are only aint's – and messages that do *NOT* further the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but literally destroy the cause of Christ. God says to those churches, "*you are bloody whores.*" Don't think so? – Read on....

XXIII

1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother:

3 And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

4 And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

5 And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours,

6 Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses.

7 Thus she committed her whoredoms with them, with all them that were the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself.

8 Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.

9 Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted.

10 These discovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword: and she became famous among women; for they had executed judgment upon her.

11 And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms.

12 She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men.

13 Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way,

14 And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermilion,

15 Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:

16 And as soon as she saw them with her eyes, she doted upon them, and sent messengers unto them into Chaldea.

~ Once again, Ezekiel goes way out on a limb with this parable of two sisters. If the people were growing impatient and uncomfortable with this prophet before – and they were – they are simply abhorred by Him now. A disdain for the prophet would be a woeful understatement. Make sure you notice the first verse in this chapter – “*the Word of the Lord*” – is what we’re studying, friends. Ezekiel wasn’t just making up some sensational missive for the sake of being disagreeable. These two virgins – Aholah and Aholibah – sold their virtue because they were whores; and we’re talking about Jerusalem in the southern kingdom of Judah – Aholibah – and Samaria in the northern kingdom of Israel – Aholah. We don’t have to guess at that because the Word of God tells us in verse four.

Aholibah means: my tent is pitched in her land. God’s tent was pitched in Jerusalem in the Temple of Solomon. Of course, the temple was patterned after the tabernacle Moses had been given in the wilderness. That was the sanctuary where God permitted His people to approach Him; and where He communicated and communed with His people. Aholah means: she is her own tent. The northern ten tribes of Israel had rebelled against God; and their king, Jeroboam, had set up those two golden calves – one in Bethel and one in Samaria – when the nation was divided immediately following Solomon’s death, you will recall. Those golden calves were created in an attempt to keep the people from going to Jerusalem to worship in the temple – and it was a highly effective distraction.

Well, it was also easy for the prophets in the southern kingdom to say “... *God’s going to judge those golden calves*” – and God did judge them. However, God is going to judge the southern kingdom, too. Friends, I sincerely hope you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment; because this lesson is the essence of our Christian lives. If you have not prayed for understanding of knowledge, then you’re just not going to receive it. The southern kingdom didn’t worship golden calves, but they were going through an empty, dead, vain and meaningless ritual in the temple, pretending they were doing what God wanted them to do, when

they were well-aware that they were living in abject sin and open rebellion. In fact, they were committing Baal worship to the nth-degree.

Today, the spiritual scalpel, wielded by unsaved liberal preachers, has severed the nerves of the average unlearned church members. The business model of the modern church rests entirely on a total and complete ignorance of the Bible by its members. If the typical preacher were a doctor or lawyer, they would be sued for malpractice. Now, someone says, “... *I am saved by grace.*” Yes, you are – and that’s the only way you or I will ever get saved – *BUT – BUT – BUT* – that doesn’t mean we aren’t to live a life for Christ that is holy, righteous, just, honorable and pure; and saved by grace doesn’t mean God isn’t going to judge our works, either.

The average pastor murders the spiritual life of their congregation through a callous disregard of sound doctrine. The primary offense is a neglect of these tenets of truth. So, we need to get acquainted with these two sisters – Aholah and Aholibah – but not grow too familiar. Let’s ensure we never emulate them. We need to learn how *NOT* to act from the example of their behavior. Ezekiel was really starting to get the attention of the children of Israel now by taking a spiritual two-by-four and smacking them right upside their heads with it. If you don’t like sensationalism when the Bible gets sensational, I suggest you turn back now. You will definitely want to quit reading this Spiritual Safari if you don’t want truth in your life. I know people don’t want to hear this message, friends – although they’ll sing “*Tell Me the Old, Old Story*” for the umpteenth-zillion time. They don’t want to hear the old story; maybe they want me to sing it to them? That would be a tragic mistake. But, either way, they don’t want to hear it. A dish of the old corn is unappealing and unimpressive.

Verse twelve refers back to a historical event when King Ahaz was on the throne. Remember, Ahaz was a bad king in Judah. For a proper background, in second Kings chapter sixteen we read, “... *king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath Pileser, king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from*

Damascus. And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar. And he brought also the brasen altar, which was before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar. And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire by. Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded. And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that were under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones. And the covert for the Sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria”

See, old man Ahaz fell for the same things that were polluting Aholah and Aholibah; and this is exactly what is corrupting the church today: trying to improve and enhance worship, you know. It's all external; it has nothing to do with worshiping in Spirit and in truth. They aren't interested in the souls of men. That's what Ezekiel is talking about; and God is noting it as He explains His judgment of His chosen people. One of them, Aholah, went brazenly into open and abject idolatry; while the other, Aholibah, hid her sins, pretending to worship God! Friends, it will do us well – every single one of us – to make an examination of ourselves and see if we are in the faith. I believe in the eternal security of the believer; but I also believe in the *INSECURITY* of the make-believer. When you go to church, do you go there to honestly and sincerely worship God in Spirit and in Truth? What does the Lord Jesus Christ really mean to you today, friends? Do you love Him? Do you love serving Him? Do you serve Him and keep His laws, precepts, statutes and commandments because you want to obey? Do you want to obey because you love Him? Or do you go through a phony ritual for some benefit you might receive as a “*blessing?*” How close are you to

Jesus today? God doesn't want our lip service. He wants truth and obedience. You can just write this all down....

17 And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them.

18 So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.

19 Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

20 For she doted upon their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses.

21 Thus thou calledst to remembrance the lewdness of thy youth, in bruising thy teats by the Egyptians for the paps of thy youth.

22 Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on 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 and rulers, great lords and renowned, all of them riding upon horses.

24 And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments.

25 And I will set my jealousy against thee, and they shall deal furiously with thee: they shall take away thy nose and thine ears; and thy remnant

shall fall by the sword: they shall take thy sons and thy daughters; and thy residue shall be devoured by the fire.

26 They shall also strip thee out of thy clothes, and take away thy fair jewels.

27 Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more.

28 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated:

29 And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

30 I will do these things unto thee, because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols.

31 Thou hast walked in the way of thy sister; therefore will I give her cup into thine hand.

32 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou shalt drink of thy sister's cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much.

33 Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.

34 Thou shalt even drink it and suck it out, and thou shalt break the sherds thereof, and pluck off thine own breasts: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

35 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

36 The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations;

37 That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them.

38 Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my Sabbaths.

39 For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house.

40 And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,

41 And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.

42 And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

43 Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them?

44 Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

45 And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands.

46 For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled.

47 And the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire.

48 Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness.

49 And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

XXIV

1 Again in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

~ Ezekiel has only dated his message from the Word of the Lord a few times before in this prophecy; and he did it this time because, at the moment he was writing, Nebuchadnezzar was tearing down the walls of Jerusalem, and crushing the stones of Solomon's Temple that will later become the Wailing Wall. Naturally, they didn't have television and internet, so this news wouldn't come back to Babylon for several weeks, at least. So, God revealed to Ezekiel exactly what was happening so far away! Of course, the liberal always claims some sort of dilemma saying that either Ezekiel was an intentional deceiver or the possessor of second sight. Well, he sure was the latter – possessing God's sight – but the liberal doesn't believe that, of course....

2 Son of man, write thee the name of the day, even of this same day: the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day.

3 And utter a parable unto the rebellious house, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Set on a pot, set it on, and also pour water into it:

4 Gather the pieces thereof into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones.

5 Take the choice of the flock, and burn also the bones under it, and make it boil well, and let them seethe the bones of it therein.

6 Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it.

~ The bloody city is Jerusalem, and they were in a boiling pot of God's wrath. The scum means their sins. We hear people today say that someone else is the "scum of the earth;" but, God says, "Y-O-U-R sins are the scum of the earth." I get so weary of hearing these super-duper saints talking about election today; as if they knew who the elect were. Frankly, anyone talking like that is definitely *NOT* the elect; because that would be impossible. No, friends, we're all in the same pot together. That makes our sins the scum of the earth. Amusingly, there is a church whose motto is, "God Thinks You Are Awesome." They say that, because their rationale is that because Christ died for us, He must have believed us to be awesome! Well, I have bad news for you: Christ died for us while we were yet dead in our trespasses and sins. Jesus died for us because He had pity and mercy on us – and because He was being compassionate and condescending towards us – not because He thinks we're awesome. I don't care who you are or what you do in this world, you're just a vapor. You will blow away tomorrow and – the end. Anyone who thinks they are awesome in God's sight is Aholibah. They're the bloody whore. I don't think God can make it any clearer, or any stronger, than that. Now, don't get your feathers all ruffled-up and accuse me of saying that because I didn't say it – God did. If you don't like it, I suggest you take it up with Him – not me....

7 For her blood is in the midst of her; she set it upon the top of a rock; she poured it not upon the ground, to cover it with dust;

8 That it might cause fury to come up to take vengeance; I have set her blood upon the top of a rock, that it should not be covered.

9 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city! I will even make the pile for fire great.

10 Heap on wood, kindle the fire, consume the flesh, and spice it well, and let the bones be burned.

11 Then set it empty upon the coals thereof, that the brass of it may be hot, and may burn, and that the filthiness of it may be molten in it, that the scum of it may be consumed.

12 She hath wearied herself with lies, and her great scum went not forth out of her: her scum shall be in the fire.

13 In thy filthiness is lewdness: because I have purged thee, and thou wast not purged, thou shalt not be purged from thy filthiness any more, till I have caused my fury to rest upon thee.

14 I the LORD have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent; according to thy ways, and according to thy doings, shall they judge thee, saith the Lord GOD.

15 Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

16 Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

17 Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

18 So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with the sudden death of Ezekiel's wife. Today, we say someone had a stroke and died – well, they sure did – read verse sixteen very carefully. I am sure Mrs. Ezekiel was a lovely, beautiful young Jewish woman he had met in captivity; and this tragedy broke Ezekiel's heart. Even so, Ezekiel isn't going to shed a tear for her; because God said, *"no tears from you."* God said, *"get up, get dressed and prepare to give another message from Me to these rebellious, impudent and hard-hearted people."* God told Ezekiel he wasn't to act like these people would have acted in this situation. Naturally, the people didn't understand it. I'm sure they believed Ezekiel was a thoughtless, uncaring person. They had acted as if they didn't understand Ezekiel before – although they did understand him. The problem is: they were liars who just didn't *WANT* to understand truth – but not now. They are perplexed by the seeming coldness and indifference of this prophet.

All of this, properly interpreted with verse twenty-seven, means God says, *"when My witness to the world fails, I will even destroy My Own witness in the world."* Jesus warned each of the seven churches in Revelation, *".... give light or I will snuff out your flame and remove your lamp stand."* The church speaks of His witness in this world today. I don't care who you are or how you are, my friends, if you're not going to give out the Word of God properly, correctly and completely and stand for the things of the Lord Jesus Christ, this is the day He is going to remove your lamp stand. There will be no light remaining. These are *strong* statements, to be sure. Well, this Spiritual Safari doesn't traffic in the sloppy-agape new-age sickness of making the Bible more palatable for the natural man. The sickening sweet non-sense that plagues this forum on which I teach will be stopped soon. I am teaching the prophecy of Ezekiel; and Ezekiel is speaking for God – and God is always right – and we are always wrong. Remember that when you go to Him in your prayers today; and make sure you pray for me, my beloved....

~ Selah....

19 And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

20 Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

21 Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

22 And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.

23 And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

24 Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

25 Also, thou son of man, shall it not be in the day when I take from them their strength, the joy of their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that whereupon they set their minds, their sons and their daughters,

26 That he that escapeth in that day shall come unto thee, to cause thee to hear it with thine ears?

27 In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the LORD ~

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