

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 15-17: Pictures of Failure (Part 2)
Lesson 16 “The Unfaithful Wife” (Part 1)
Ezekiel 16:1-14 (ANSWERS)
December 6, 2020

Recap from Lesson 15:

- The three messages recorded in these chapters (**Ezek. 15-17**) were given to the **Elders** who were seated before him in his own **House**, men who were outwardly appeared **Interested** in hearing God’s word but inwardly were **Idolatrous**. (**Ezek. 14:1-3**)
 - o In these three messages, Ezekiel spoke about a **Vine**, an **Unfaithful** Wife, and three **Shots** from a **Tree**, and each of these images conveyed God’s truth to those who really wanted to understand.
- 1. **The Worthless Vine (Ezek. 15:1-8)**
 - a. The vine is an image found frequently in Scripture. Jesus compared **Himself** to a vine and His **Disciples** to branches in the vine, because we depend **Wholly** on Him for life and faithfulness. (**Jn. 15**)
 - b. Other times, in Scripture, the vine speaks of the Gentile society and the Nation of Israel.
 - c. Ezekiel’s contribution to the vineyard story is to point out the **Worthlessness** of the vine that does **Not** bear fruit.
 - d. Those of **Us** who are branches in Jesus Christ, the true Vine, need to take this lesson to heart ! If we fail to abide in Christ, we **Lose** our spiritual power, wither, and fail to **Bear** fruit for His glory. (**Jn. 15:6; 6:37; Rom. 8:1**)

Session 16

Background:

- This long chapter contains some of the most vivid language found anywhere in Scripture. It is address to the **City** of Jerusalem but refers to the entire **Nation**.
 - o This chapter traces the spiritual history of the Jews from “**Birth**” (God’s call of Abraham) through “**Marriage**” (God’s covenant with the people), and up to their “**Spiritual Prostitution**” (Idolatry) and the sad consequences that followed (Ruin and Exile).
 - o But as we read the chapter, we must see not only the **Dark** background of Israel’s wickedness but also the bright **Light** of God’s **Love** and **Grace**. (**Rom. 5:20**)
- 1. **Israel Experienced a Great Love (Ezek. 16:1-4)**
 - a. Israel is pictured here as an **Unwanted child**- Exposed, **Abandoned**, and left to die, but she was then **Rescued** by the Lord and became His wife.
 - i. Many Jews were excessively proud of their heritage and called the Gentiles “Dogs,” but the Lord reminded them that they had descended from the **Amorites** and **Hittites**. (**Gen. 10:15-16**)
 - ii. It was not until the time of **David** that Jerusalem belonged to the **Jews** and became the capital of the nation. (**Josh. 10:5**)
 - 1. For the matter, their esteemed ancestor **Abraham** was an idol worshipping **Pagan** when God graciously called him!

b. The parents of the newborn child did not even give her the human treatment that every baby deserves.

i. They did not cut the umbilical cord, wash the child, rub her skin with salt... Without **Pity** or Compassion, they **Threw** her out into the open field and exposed her to the elements.

ii. The Lord passed by, saw the helpless body, took pity on her, and **Saved** her. By the **Power** of His word He gave her life, and this was wholly an act of **Divine** grace. (**Acts 7:2**)

iii. The baby grew and became a young woman ready for **Marriage**. The phrase "**Came to excellent ornaments**" in **Ezek. 16:7** means "Come to full maturity."

1. By now, Israel was enslaved in the land of Egypt, so the Lord would have to redeem her. He wanted her for Himself so He "Passed by" again and **Claimed** her for His own bride. (**Ezek. 6:6, 8**)

2. Israel **Committed a Great Sin** (**Ezek. 16:15-34**)

a. When Israel became **Prosperous** and famous, she **Forgot** the Lord who gave her such great **Wealth**, and she began to use God's generous gifts for **Worshipping** idols. (**Hos. 2:8, 13-14**)

i. Like the ignorant heathen nations around her, she **Worshipped** the creation rather than the **Creator** and abandoned her "**Husband**" for false gods. (**Rom. 1:21-25**)

ii. She did not simply occasionally commit adultery, as wicked as that is. She became a **Professional** prostitute, but unlike other prostitutes, she sought out her lovers and **Paid** them to **Sin** with her.

iii. She took the very **Treasures** and blessing God generously gave to her and devoted them to the making and worshipping of idols. (**Ezek. 16:20-21**)

– The Lord **Desires** and **Deserves** our full and complete devotion. (**2 Cor. 11:1-4**)

– **Rev. 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat Against thee, because thou has Left thy first Love."**