

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 15-17: Pictures of Failure (Part 3)
Lesson 17 “The Unfaithful Wife” (Part 2)
Ezekiel 16:35-47 (ANSWERS)
January 3, 2021

Recap from Lesson 16:

Background:

- This long chapter contains some of the most vivid language found anywhere in Scripture. It is addressed 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 the **“Spiritual Prostitution”** (Idolatry) and the sad consequences that followed (Ruin and Exile).
- 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.
 - b. The parents of the newborn child did not even give her the human treatment that every baby deserves.
 - i. 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)**.
- 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)**
- 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.”**

Lesson 17

- 1. **Israel Suffered a Great Discipline (Ezek. 16:35-47)**
 - a. The Lord was very patient with His people and warned them that their sins would bring them ruin, but they persisted in **Rejecting** His Word, **Persecuting** His prophets, and **Practicing** the abominable sins of their neighbors.
 - b. Their punishments are described as those of a **Prostitute**, an **Adulteress**, and an **Idolater**, because the nation had committed those very sins.
 - c. Ezekiel gives a graphic description of the judgment of Israel, the prostitute.
 - i. First, the Lord would announce the **Crimes (Vss. 35-36)**. She **“Poured out her lust”** on the heathen idols and exposed her nakedness in worshipping them.
 - ii. Then the Lord announced the **Sentence (Vss. 37-42)**.
 - 1. She would be publicly exposed as an **Adulteress** and a **Harlot**.
 - a. Like adulterers and adulteresses, the people would be killed by **Stones**; like idolaters, they would be slain by the

Sword, and like prostitutes, they would be Burned in the fire.

iii. Having described their sins, the Lord then Defended His Sentence (**Ezek. 16:43-52**).

1. First, the nation had Forgotten what the Lord had done for them (**Vs. 43**), and this was the very sin that Moses had warned them to avoid. (**Deut. 6:10**)

a. When we Forget to be thankful, we are in Danger of taking Credit of our blessings and Failing to give God the glory He deserves.

2. Second, they Failed to understand the Enormity of their sin (**Ezek. 16:44-52**).

a. “**Like father, like son.**” Another version might be “**The apple does not fall too far from the tree.**”

b. In other words, the children inherit their parents’ Nature, so don’t be surprised if they Repeat their parent’s sins.

2. God Names the Sins of Sodom (**Vss. 48-52**)

a. These were abominable sins of Attitude and Action, Commission and Omission; and yet the people of Jerusalem and Judah were more guilty than were the people of Sodom.

3. Israel Will Experience a Great Restoration (**Vss. 53-63**)

a. The phrase “**Bring again their captivity**” means “**Restore their Fortress.**” The captives in Babylon would be restored, returned to the land, and rebuild the temple.

i. God’s goodness in allowing this to happen would bring them to Shame and Repentance (**Rom. 2:4**).

b. However, it is likely that this restoration is Reserved for the end times when Israel will see their Messiah, Weep over their sins, and enter into His Kingdom.

i. Later in his book, (**Ezek. 37:15-28**), Ezekiel will Predict a reunion of Samaria (The Northern Kingdom) and Judah (The Southern Kingdom) under the Kingship of the Messiah.

1. The Jewish people broke their covenant and suffered for their disobedience, but Nobody can be Saved by keeping the law. (**Gal. 2:16**)

2. It is only through the Redemption provided in Christ Jesus that sinners can be forgiven and received into the family of God. (**Rom. 3:24**)

ii. There will come a time when God’s people, Israel, will remember their sins and recognize God’s goodness and grace on their behalf.

1. Their mouths will be Shut because of Conviction (**Ezek. 16:63**) and they will be Saved.

– One day, that New Covenant will bring to them the Cleansing and Forgiveness that only the blood of Christ can give!