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EZEKIEL TWENTY THREE  
(Revised Standard Version)

Introduction:

This study concerns the conduct of two sisters. In this chapter we will find that this is symbolic, and their conduct is representative of spiritual sins, committed by those claiming to be the LORD'S People. This not only covers the israel under the law, however. We will discover that this is mainly directed against organized religion, and their conduct.

Verses 1-4:

- 1) The word of the LORD came to me:
- 2) "Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother;
- 3) they played the harlot in egypt; they played the harlot in their youth; there their breasts were pressed and their virgin bosoms handled.
- 4) Oholah was the name of the elder and Oholibah the name of her sister. They became mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Oholah is Samaria, and Oholibah is Jerusalem.

Verse 4 confirms that these are not literal women. The term woman is often used in the scriptures to represent an organization.

YAHWEH is referring to the division of HIS People. The separation between the twelve tribes, where ten tribes were ruled with their capital in samaria, and the two Judah, and Benjamin's, was located in Jerusalem. This separation was for a reason; specifically for the fulfillment in True Israel. This would represent the two ruling portions in the Kingdom of YAHWEH which is to be established in the latter days.

But here, there is a greater picture, a greater illustration to be seen. As I brought out, this chapter deals with religion. This verse is referring to a separation, a division between two religions. This is the catholic organization, and the protestants. I will bring out more as I go along, and it will become clearer.

The conduct of these women, or these people, we find is very immoral. In other words, these who claim to be the people of the Almighty GOD, their conduct is unfaithful. YAHWEH employs these terms to describe the corrupted condition that HIS People had succumbed to. The physical illustration is something we can understand. Adultery, or fornication--promised to one, yet sinning with others. Spiritual fornication occurred with the israel of old because they always desired what the other nations had. They weren't satisfied with the Almighty GOD of Heaven dealing with them. They weren't satisfied that they had a GOD that protected them, led them from bondage in egypt, to lead them to a promised land. They cursed

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YAHWEH continuously while HE was helping them escape from their enemies. Proof of this dissatisfaction can be found throughout the scriptures.

### Verse 5:

Oholah played the harlot while she was mine; and she doted on her lovers the assyrians,

Oholah, or samaria; this is the capital of the ten tribes. Doted means to be excessively fond of. This would mean to be infatuated with. YAHWEH is comparing the conduct of samaria, to a woman who is so taken with someone that she is completely taken over with uncontrollable physical desires. These are supposed to be people who know better. And a people who are supposed to know the Will of YAHWEH. And yet, they are not controlling her intelligence, not conducting herself as a proper woman would.

### Verse 6:

warriors clothed in purple, governors and commanders, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses.

This is illustrating how samaria was attracted to assyria. Of course the attraction was not truly physical, but the comparison can be made that samaria was attracted to assyria because samaria could benefit from assyria. This was the attraction. This is the sin. To those who would benefit them more; who could bring more blessings. The world, or YAHWEH. For YAHWEH'S People, there is no choice. They trust and rely solely upon YAHWEH for guidance and blessings. They know they will always come out the best, for serving YAHWEH is the only way for mankind.

But this also shows us another picture. This would picture the religions of the world. Religion claims to be the LORD'S People, and yet they follow their own course, their own desires, and they do not serve the Almighty GOD. They too are involved with the other nations, desiring the organizations of this world, and this puts them in direct opposition to YAHWEH and HIS Organization.

### Verse 7:

She bestowed her harlotries upon them, the choicest men of assyria all of them; and she defiled herself with all the idols of every one on whom she doted.

The key here is in idols. This is where she has gone astray. Serving idols; an idol is worshipping anything other than YAHWEH. They are no longer serving YAHWEH. This is the real fornication, because it is committed in their hearts. They willingly choose to serve other nations, other gods.

### Verse 8:

She did not give up her harlotry which she had practiced since her days in egypt; for in her youth men have lain with her and handled her virgin bosom and poured out their lust upon her.

This is bringing out that from the early days israel was really not interested in serving YAHWEH, unless it benefitted them. That from the very beginning israel had this way about her; that she would commit spiritual fornication. This can be found throughout the scriptures. A perfect example would be shortly after YAHWEH had delivered the israelites through the red sea Moses ascended the mountain, and the israelites made a golden calf to worship. This shows that the minute they were clear of problems they returned to what they wanted to do.

And likewise, religion was established with the intent to rule, and control more territory. From the very beginning religion has had this way. Always making deals, and working with the rulers of the countries. Not striving whatsoever to serve and represent YAHWEH despite their great claims.

Verses 9,10:

Therefore I delivered her into the hands of her lovers, into the hands of the assyrians, upon whom she doted.

These uncovered her nakedness; they seized her sons and her daughters; and they slew with the sword; and she became a byword among women, when judgement had been executed upon her.

This not only brings out the destruction of the ten tribes, which were destroyed by assyria. It is bringing out that religion soon will fall also. This brings out that she will be exposed, and debased, and then destroyed.

This happened to the israel under the law as a result of the abominations that were committed; as a direct result of their sins and disobedience they were destroyed. Completely lost as a nation. Totally assimilated into the surrounding nations. ( II Kings 17)

This holds true for religion as well. It is because of her conduct, because of immorality, she will be destroyed. This abuse of YAHWEH'S Name, and oppression to HIS People can not continue.

The last portion of verse 10 brings out that she would be a "byword among women, when judgement had been executed upon her." In other words, she would be something to talk about for a long time. Like, did you see what happened to her? She died a disgraceful death. YAHWEH abandoned her because of her disobedience and her actions. Her actions will be an example for the True People of YAHWEH; to know to only follow HIM, and trust only in HIM.

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### Verses 11-13:

11) Her sister Oholibah saw this, yet she was more corrupt than she in her doting and in her harlotry, which was worse than that of her sister.

12) She doted upon the assyrians, governors and commanders, warriors clothed in full armor, horsemen riding on horse, all of them desirable young men.

13) And I saw that she was defiled; they both took the same way.

Judah saw the destruction of the ten tribes. Saw the results of disobedience, but did she learn, and correct her ways? No, she continued in the same ways, worshipping other gods, other nations. Yearning for anything other than YAHWEH.

In this there is a lesson for the True People of YAHWEH. They learn first hand what will happen to a people that ignore the statutes handed down by the Almighty YAHWEH. This nation failed as a nation, the Israel of Promise will not. The Israel of Promise will demonstrate the faith that the israel under the law could not. The Israel of Promise will love their GOD, and yearn for every law, every statute that comes through HIS Servants the Prophets. They will rejoice with every guideline handed down.

Another illustration that is being shown here concerns the conduct of religion. The first sister would picture catholicism. She was first, she strove to enter every nation, and world power. She yearned to satisfy herself, while claiming to serve the Almighty YAHWEH. The second sister would be the religion that rebelled from the first. Protestantism. The first corrupted her ways. She had all the means of truly serving YAHWEH, and yet she chose to manufacture a religion that would mean the people would follow her, and not YAHWEH. The Protestants were once part of the catholic organization, but they saw the corruption, they saw the perverseness of the organization. They rebelled. Did they do any better? Aren't they just as much a part of the world, and just as perverted in their ways as the catholic organization? Don't they have a form of idol worship, and rituals that are not established from the Almighty? And the most important point of all, aren't they helping to better a world that YAHWEH has condemned?

### Verses 14,15:

But she carried her harlotry further; she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the chaldeans portrayed in vermilion,

girded with belts on their loins, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like officers, a picture of babylonians whose native land was chaldaea.

Judah was worse, because she only had to see pictures of men to arouse her. In other words, she was completely out of control, not only because she saw samaria fall, and she did not heed the warning, but there was no

reasoning whatsoever. There was no self-control, no restraint. She did what ever appealed to her. She followed her desires regardless of the consequences.

Protestantism was worse than catholicism in the sense that they saw the corruption in high places, and they rebelled. So they should have known first hand what was wrong. They left the catholics, because they felt they were wrong. So they got totally wrapped up in their own religion, instead of serving YAHWEH. They serve the heathen nations as much as the catholic organizations, and this is spiritual fornication.

This description is of a people that are completely perverted and corrupt. This is a physical illustration, and it shows how man is perverted. He is not employing the attributes of YAHWEH, he has gone against these attributes, and he has perverted himself. The results are a people gone haywire. People headed for destruction.

Verses 16, 17:

16) When she saw them she doted upon them, and sent messengers to them in chaldaea.

17) And the babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their lust; and after she was polluted by them, she turned from them in disgust.

The feeling of committing spiritual fornication can be nerve shattering. YAHWEH allowed Jeremiah to experience this feeling. He had been given instructions to leave the witnesses, and he did. And it had also been revealed that he would not go to jail. And yet he did. And the only thing he could think of was that he had taken a course contrary to YAHWEH'S. That he had gone out on his own. To a righteous servant, disobeying YAHWEH, not receiving HIS approval is a double blow. Jeremiah writes that the air around him carried this agonizing misery, he couldn't eat, he couldn't sleep. He said that anybody who walked in the house could sense how dreadful he felt. YAHWEH allowed him to experience this so that he might know the feeling of dread and foreboding an evil servant might feel when he has realizes the crimes he commits. The difference between the two, however, is that the righteous servant is crushed with the thought of taking things in their own hands and disobeying YAHWEH. Whereas the evli servant has this sense of dread and despair because they are about to fall. That their time is coming to an end, and they are exposed.

And this is what these verses are bringing out. In this instance, the harlot, turns against her lovers, in disgust, saying 'what have I done?' Where am I getting myself? All these trysts are destroying me. This feeling will tear at their hearts when they realize the crimes that they have committed.

Verses 18-20:

18) When she carried on her harlotry so openly and flaunted her nakedness, I turned in disgust from her, as I had turned from her sister.

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19) Yet she increased her harlotry, remembering the days of her youth, when she played the harlot in the land of egypt.

20) and doted upon her paramour there, whose members were like those of asses, and whose issue was like that of horses.

YAHWEH cannot look at such disobedience. It is so vile to HIM, so corrupt that it is pictured as this harlot being so perverted that she is associating with creatures that aren't even human. And truly it is this vile. These were a people that saw miracles. Were given prophets that YAHWEH dealt with. It wasn't uncommon to have angels in the form of men speak to the righteous of israel. And yet, they turned their back on YAHWEH and HIS Blessings. They chose the way of the world. This is perverse. This is corrupt. They are beasts themselves, for they do not recognize their own CREATOR.

Verse 21:

Thus you longed for the lewdness of your youth, when the egyptians handled your bosom and pressed your young breasts.

And yet she doesn't learn. She longs for the way it used to be. An example brought out in the book of Jeremiah, was when YAHWEH had commanded the israelites that they were to be conquered by babylon, because of disobedience. But they refused to acknowledge, and they fled to egypt for safety. The result was that israel was conquered by babylon, and then babylon conquered egypt. They sought safety from a heathen nation and ignored guidance from above, and the result was destruction.

Likewise with religion, they turn to the nations of this world to establish their kingdom. They do not rely on YAHWEH, nor strive to serve HIM, that they might enter into HIS Kingdom.

Verse 22:

Therefore, O Oholibah, thus says the LORD GOD: behold I will rouse against you your lovers from whom you turned in disgust, and I will bring them against you from every side:

Now typical israel was destroyed by the surrounding nations. But this actually represents a greater fulfillment. This is the other picture of those claiming to be the LORD'S People. Organized religion. This is referring to a time at the end, when the abomination is falling. Religion will be exposed for the harlot that she truly is. When the nations, the ones that she associated with, not only tire of her, but are sickened by her, and expose her. Revelation 17:16 brings out:

And the ten horns which thou sawest, these shall hate the whore; they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire.

The associations between the harlot and the nations were not pure, it was not a blessed association. It was lewd, corrupt, entirely selfish, and its course was contrary to the Almighty GODS Plan, and it is destined to fall.

Verse 23,23:

the babylonians and all the chaldeans, pekod and shoa, and koa and all the assyrians with them, desirable young men, governors and commanders all of them, officers and warriors, all of them riding on horses.

And they shall come against you from the north with chariots and wagons and a host of peoples; they shall set themselves against you on every side with buckler, shield, and helmet, and I will commit the judgement to them, and they shall judge you according to their judgements.

This is the judgement of the great whore in Revelation 17. This is the downfall of all organized religion. All those claiming to represent the LORD. "... and they shall judge you according to their judgements." This judgement comes about because of the surge of attributes that come to the fore in the last days. She is a corrupt and sinful organization. When a righteous man has been cheated, or he sees someone else cheated, he gets mad. What you will have is that she overextends herself, and cheats too many people, and the result is that she will be exposed for what she is. Remember it said, that these ten kings, or all the worldly kings will hate her. Not a simple dislike, but hate. YAHWEH can take the credit for starting the judgement because he has created these attributes in man. And as Revelation 17:17 brings out in part "...for GOD has put it in their hearts to carry out HIS purpose..." In other words, it is HIS intent to destroy her, HE uses them to achieve this.

Verse 25:

And I will direct my indignation against you, that they may deal with you in fury. They shall cut off your nose and your ears, and your survivors shall fall by the sword. They shall seize your sons and your daughters, and your survivors shall be devoured by fire.

This is another indication that this is not a literal woman, but an organization. It is the complete destruction of an organization.

Verse 26:

They shall also strip you of your clothes and take away your fine jewels.

Not only will she be destroyed, but she will be robbed, brought to a disgraceful end.

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### Verse 27:

Thus I will put an end to your lewdness and your harlotry brought from the land of egypt; so that you shall not lift up your eyes to the egyptians or remember them any more.

For the israel of the flesh, there was destruction. As a nation they are lost, dispersed throughout the world and it was because of their disobedient ways.

For the religions of the world, those claiming to be the LORD'S People, this destruction is imminent. Nahum 1:9 says rivalry shall not rise up a second time. There will never be another time when man can be led astray by his own designs.

### Verse 28:

For thus says the LORD GOD: behold I will deliver you into the hands of those whom you hate, into the hands of those from whom you turned in disgust;

Strictly speaking of the last days with the establishment of the abomination of desolation. The union of these three is awesome. The 3 elements; the u.s. and russia and the catholic organization, these all hate each other for personal reasons. They are all opposed to the others philosophies. They despise what each other believes in. And yet they unite for a time. And so this is their downfall as well. Into the hands of those she hates, and those who hate her.

### Verse 29:

and they shall deal with you in hatred, and take away all the fruit of your labor, and leave you naked and bare, and the nakedness of your harlotry shall be uncovered. Your lewdness and your harlotry

Again, she will be destroyed by those she has had dealings with. She will be exposed for all to see. Judged rightly for her lewd actions, her sins against the Almighty YAHWEH.

### Verse 30:

have brought this upon you, because you played the harlot with the nations, and polluted yourself with their idols.

This happened to israel. This will happen to all those who claim to serve YAHWEH and serve themselves.

### Verses 31-33:

31) You have gone the way of your sister; therefore I will give her cup into your hand.

32) Thus says the LORD GOD: You shall drink your sister's cup which is deep and large; you shall be laughed at and held in derision, for it contains much;

33) you will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow. A cup of horror and desolation is the cup of your sister samaria;

Judah shall partake of the same destruction as samaria. Likewise the protestants shall partake of the same fate as the catholics. All religion in the last days will be affected when the catholic organization falls. Didn't they all give their mind to her? Didn't they all join together to make one world under GOD? And likewise, didn't they know of her dirty dealings? Aren't they the same charlatans that said this thing was from GOD? And so they too will fall. Religion will be a shameful sight when it is over. Something to laugh at and deride.

Verse 34:

you shall drink it and drain it out, and pluck out your hair, and tear your breasts; for I have spoken, says the LORD GOD.

This will be an agonizing time for them. As you might imagine it were for the israel of the flesh, to realize that they weren't going to be forgiven just one more time and that they were allowed to be conquered. The agony of rejection from YAHWEH is a cup of strong drink. And as for religion, to have it all, and then to lose that position, to be brought to shame will truly be an agony for them.

Verse 35:

Therefore thus says the LORD GOD: because you have forgotten me, and cast me behind your back, therefore bear the consequences of your lewdness and harlotry.

Why are they being destroyed? It is answered in the verse, because they have cast YAHWEH behind their backs. In other words, completely disregarded HIM, completely forgotten who the CREATOR is. And now they must bear the consequences of their actions. Remember this is not a simple mistake that imperfect man might commit. This is willful disobedience. This is an organization that has chosen to follow in their own course. Their own harlotries and lewdness.

Verses 36,37:

36) The LORD said to me: son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominable deeds.

37) For they have committed adultery, and blood is upon their hands; with their idols they have committed adultery; and they have even offered up to them for food the sons whom they had borne to me.

Again, because of their abominable deeds they will be destroyed. The blood that is on their hands shows the responsibility for the deaths of innocent

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man. Leading them to their death. From the time of israel, leading men to go against YAHWEH, and kill the prophets that HE has sent. To modern day where religious leaders bless the war efforts. If they only stood up and took the right stand, instead of serving kings, and rulers, and served the Almighty, the lives that could have been saved. The wars that could have been avoided.

And the israel of the flesh had even offered up their children to sacrifices. This is how perverted they became.

Verse 38:

Moreover this they have done to me: they have defiled my sanctuary on the same day and profaned my sabbaths.

In todays time this means that while they should be serving YAHWEH and HIS plan to deliver mankind, they serve themselves. And they profane YAHWEH and HIS organization by setting up a mock kingdom. One that brings reproach to the name of YAHWEH.

In the time of israel, this meant on the day they were supposed to rest and serve only YAHWEH they could be found profaning HIS temple. Mixing the heathen religions with the True Religion.

Verse 39 elaborates:

For when they had slaughtered their children in sacrifice to their idols, on the same day they came into my sanctuary to profane it. And lo, this is what they did in my house.

It is horrid enough that they would follow these heathen rituals, and yet they add insult to injury by continuing the front, and showing up to worship YAHWEH.

Verses 40-42:

40) They even sent for men to come from far, to whom a messenger was sent, and lo, they came. For them you bathed yourself, painted your eyes, and decked yourself with ornaments;

41) you sat upon a stately couch, with a table spread before it on which you had place my incense an my oil.

42) The sound of a carefree multitude was with her; and with men of the common sort drunkards were brought from the wilderness; and they put bracelets upon the hands of the women and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

This shows the extent of her lewdness. She is likened to a woman preparing herself, painting and primping. Sending away for others, to gather about her. Not even caring about the sort that she associates with. And to top off the adulterous behavior, she uses the oils, and incenses that are to be used for the worship of YAHWEH. In other words, she mingles the two. The lewdness of her ways are mingled with the truths of YAHWEH. Much like the religions of the day. They use the Bible, they teach the commandments, teach the return of the Messiah. And yet to follow any of these religions

is certain death. There is only one way of True worship. This can only be outlined by servants of YAHWEH. No one else has the authority. There is no one else commissioned for this job. And yet this is how the devil works, he can have a good amount of truth, and slip in some falsehoods, and you can easily follow along if you are not careful.

Verses 43,44:

43) Then I said, Do not men now commit adultery when they practice harlotry with her?

44) For they have gone in to her, as men go in to a harlot. Thus they went in to Oholah and to Oholibah to commit lewdness.

In other words, the whole act was a beastly act, there was no love there, there was no blessing. It was purely carnal. It fought against the spirit, this is what spiritual adultery will do. By making deals, compromises with the world, you compromise your position, and you compromise your service to YAHWEH. The result is spiritual fornication. For the True Servant of YAHWEH this is not done. There are to be no compromises, no half-way measures. Any sort of compromise leads you away from the pure worship. Any leaning towards any way other than the way of righteousness will bring you right down.

Verse 45:

But righteous men shall pass judgement on them with the sentence of adulteresses, and with the sentence of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is upon their hands.

Who are these righteous men that will pass judgement? These will be the men, or those in the organization that will employ the attributes of YAHWEH and expose her. They will be incensed at the sickening ways that she has dealt with them, and they will be so outraged, that they will expose her publicly so all may view her vileness.

Verses 46,47:

46) For thus says the LORD GOD: Bring up a host against them, and make them an object of terror and a spoil.

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

Bring a host against them. And the host shall stone them. These are not literal women, but an organization. This is what will be destroyed.

Verse 48:

Thus will I put an end to lewdness in the land, that all women may take warning and not commit lewdness as you have done.

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The nations, organizations, all of these will learn that disobedience brings destruction.

Verse 49:

And your lewdness shall be requited upon you, and you shall bear the penalty for your sinful idolatry; and you shall know that I am the LORD GOD.

All those guilty, from the organizations to individuals, all will be judged for their actions. Some are deceived, some are truly blinded by satans system. Some are just truly wicked, and only want to serve themselves. All those who are willfully wicked, will bear the penalty of their sins. And all those left in this Kingdom of YAHWEH will only want to serve YAHWEH.

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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.

YAHWEH is speaking about the division of HIS People. They were all together under Jerusalem in 12 tribes and then the 10 tribes broke away from the 12 and the capital of the 10 tribes was in samaria. The capital of Judah, and Benjamin was in Jerusalem. These were HIS People.

The conduct of HIS People had become corrupt and perverted. It was a spiritual corruption. They had gone contrary to the way they were created. Man is created in love, justice, wisdom and power. When he goes contrary to his GOD given attributes, he has corrupted his ways, he has perverted his ways. The best way YAHWEH could describe it to us is by giving us an illustration of something that we understand. A physical illustration. That we may begin to understand what it actually does within us spiritually.

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

This is the head of the 10 tribes. Doted means to be excessively fond, or to the point of silly. You have seen women at times, young women especially, how they conduct themselves. Very silly, and loose manner. Not caring what is going to happen.

But they are completely devoted to someone who they are infatuated with possibly. But here are the people who are supposed to know the will of YAHWEH, and they become completely carried away by something else. YAHWEH makes clear to us, HE gives us an illustration of a woman who is carried away by some man; for her uncontrollable physical desires. Not controlling her intelligence. Not realizing what womanhood really means. She is carried away so that she becomes a useless, worthless creature.

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

HE is illustrating here how samaria was attracted to assyria. The attraction naturally wasn't physical. The illustration HE uses is one of physical. But samaria was attracted to assyria because she felt she could benefit from assyria more than she could benefit from

YAHWEH. The reason she felt this is because she deliberately forgot her GOD. Because she pursued a selfish course and ignored HIM. And began to figure out where she could come out the best. Where she could come out on top. This is what happens with people who begin to figure things out selfishly, they are bound to make the wrong turn. The true servant of YAHWEH doesn't care how he is coming out, or which is best for or which is worse. The servant of YAHWEH trust completely in YAHWEH and does HIS bidding and tries to honor HIM. This samaria did not do.

In this there is a lesson for the LORD'S People. There is also an illustration on the conduct of religion. We find that religion has followed the same course. We find that Israel claiming to be the LORD'S People; in fact they were at one time, but they claim that they are still the LORD'S People even though they have been rejected long ago. In this illustration we have a similar situation with religion today. They claim to be the LORD'S People. This is not only the LORD'S People playing the harlot, but it also illustrates religion which is going contrary to YAHWEH'S Will.

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.

You see now idols enter the picture here. Idol worship is not the true worship. It shows that the worship has been sidetracked and that they are worshipping something else. They are no longer worshipping YAHWEH. So actually the sin that was committed here was that they were worshipping other gods, they were doing the will of the other nations. YAHWEH illustrates this as adultery, fornication, which is in reality a spiritual fornication. When this is committed and persisted in it is sure death. This is the real adultery, the real fornication, because it is committed in the heart.

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.

This illustrates israel from the very beginning, were really not the LORD'S People. They were conducting themselves in a manner that was entirely contrary to YAHWEH'S will. They did this in the beginning. YAHWEH merely chose them because they were descendants of faithful men. If israel had been truly YAHWEH'S People they certainly wouldn't have made a golden calf as soon as YAHWEH miraculously delivered through the red sea. I don't believe hardly any of them had their mind on YAHWEH because we find that they all died before they reached the promised land, except for two; Joshua and Caleb. This shows from the very beginning that she had this nature about her. That she would commit spiritual fornication. In other words, instead of worshipping the True GOD, she would be worshipping everything else but.

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

The 10 tribes finally were completely annihilated by assyria. assyria conquered them. The 10 tribes were completely lost. This is the result of her adultery.

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.

In other words she was something to speak about. That no one would ever forget. In other words, it shouldn't happen to a dog, you might say, what happened to her. She died a miserable, disgraceful death. Where YAHWEH completely abandoned her and it wasn't the case where the heathen nations where their god was never with them in the first place. Here was a people whom YAHWEH had fought for. And then HE turned HIS back on them completely and allowed the heathen to destroy them. This is a horrible situation. How would you feel if you knew YAHWEH rejected you once you were HIS People. It would be certainly an empty feeling inside of you that you would never be able to equal. Nothing you can compare it to. A real emptiness, a really lost feeling.

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,

samaria; the 10 tribes, fell first. You think that would correct jerusalem. It didn't do anything. she continued in the same way. she played her politics. she tried to gain favor with the kings of the earth. she forgot that YAHWEH was her GOD. That in the strength of YAHWEH she either stood or fell. There is a lesson here to be learned for the True Israel because the things that happened to them, happened as types and examples of greater things to come. To admonish us who reach the end of the world; in the last days. Here is a people, and they were very numerous, who forgot their GOD entirely and they were completely annihilated. The Israel of Promise is coming up. The Israel of Promise is just budding, just starting. Each one of the Israel of Promise must demonstrate the faith that jerusalem did not. Each one of you must trust in YAHWEH completely. As though you were backed by a mighty nation. It makes no difference, you are alone, but you are not alone. You have the Almighty GOD with you. Each of you must demonstrate the faith that the israel of flesh did not demonstrate. You will be blessed with a blessing the israel of the flesh did not receive. These are the lessons for the LORD'S People.

Another illustration YAHWEH is using here, another lesson, HE is showing us the conduct of the religious organizations of this world. The first would picture the catholic organization. Where she corrupted her ways. How do we know. Well the protestants protested.

Ezekiel Twenty three

They saw all the wrong that was done in the catholic organization, so they broke away. They separated. Did they do any differently? No, alright so they don't believe in the pope, but the sin of committing spiritual fornication with this world, being a part of the devil's organization. The guilt of doing this rests as much on protestantism as it does on catholics. If you speak to a priest, or speak to a protestant minister, or to a rabbi; the opposition you get will be identical; 'You are out of your head. You have got to support the world. We have got to make the world a better place. You can't go out on your own, you can't break all the laws of the land, you have got to abide by this, you have got to abide by that ' and so forth. They tell you have to go to war, you to war, it is a law. One is no better than the other.

14 And [that] she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed 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:

Vermillion, this is a bright red color. In other words, she actually went farther, she was aroused by just pictures on the wall. Showing you the lust or lewdness that was in her. YAHWEH is describing that people that were completely out of control who could not use their reasoning. Whose minds were controlling their bodies. HE is describing a corrupt and perverted people, who were completely led astray and who could not employ the attributes of YAHWEH and obey HIM and receive HIS blessings.

This HE describes because it was a spiritual sin, it was something that was done willfully and the harm that was done was done within. This doesn't mean to say that the Israel of Promise is perfect. No, not at all. But if Israel, the True Israel of YAHWEH desires to do right, if they fail, YAHWEH does not look upon their failure. HE says "blessed is he whose sin is covered." In other words, the person who strives to do what is right, who believes YAHWEH has sent HIS Messiah, and He has died for us. He believes in all the promises of YAHWEH and he struggles and strives to please YAHWEH, this man's sins are covered. Regardless of how many times he fails. This was not the case with israel. They cared nothing for YAHWEH. They just went and planned their own way in order to get a personal blessing which their minds were able to reason out. YAHWEH was as though HE did not exist.

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

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.

The feeling of committing spiritual fornication, to have felt you have disobeyed YAHWEH and displeased HIM can really be nerve

shattering. YAHWEH allowed me to experience that and for a time I actually thought I had disobeyed YAHWEH. Anybody that walked in that house could sense what was going on--my feelings. The gloom, the misery was just in the air. YAHWEH had told me something, made a promise to me and then it turned about just the opposite, HE said I wasn't going to jail, and I was picked up. It appeared that I had disobeyed YAHWEH and that I had done all this, left the witnesses, went out on my own. It made this appear that I had done this because of my own egotistical mind. That HE had never spoken, that I had imagined these things. And I thought I had sinned. It was dreadful. I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep and the air about me was real agonizing misery. This lasted for a while until HE made me understand that it was the right course. But I just had to experience this. In other words, I experienced what an evil servant might experience--one who knows he has done wrong.

This is pictured here as a harlot who after a while turns on her lovers in disgust. 'What have I done? What is it getting me? What am I doing to myself? I'm destroying myself.' This is the feeling that she gets, and it is far more strong to those who have committed spiritual fornication because it really tears the heart apart.

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.

This is YAHWEH speaking. In other words, she became so corrupt, so perverted that YAHWEH pictures her as associating with creatures that aren't even human. She went way out. Imagine the people YAHWEH has dealt with and has been guided and given HIS law, I mean worked miracles and blessed, and they have seen all these things and deliberately turned their backs and do the opposite. It's bad enough for those who don't know anything, but a people YAHWEH had dealt with. This is going, you might say, to the limit. YAHWEH depicts her as a really corrupt and perverted individual.

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

she is pictured as one who has never forgotten, she was lewd from the beginning in the land of Egypt, and when she left Egypt she never changed her ways. she committed fornication with Assyria and the Babylonians, in fact at the time of Jeremiah, she wanted to go back to Egypt for help when she was troubled with Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah told them not to go to Egypt, not to seek help in Egypt, but she persisted, so they fled to Egypt and what happened? Babylon had

conquered jerusalem, the next on the list was egypt. The jews had fled from the frying pan and into the fire. They were right in the midst of another war, they ran where Nebuchadnezzar attacked next. Instead of fleeing to some place for safety. Showing you a people without guidance, at all. Why, because they refused to be guided.

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;

Here, YAHWEH is giving us a picture of those who claim to be the LORD'S People. This is organized religion. HE states in the seventeenth chapter of Revelation (Rev. 17:16) "these ten kings shall hate the whore, shall strip her naked and burn her with fire," In other words the very ones she associated with are going to turn against her. The association is not a blessed association, the association is not an association of true love, it was a lewd, corrupt, lascivious, association, it was a godless course of conduct which is contrary to the way YAHWEH'S creatures should conduct himself. And the end of it, is not a blessing. The end of it shall be a curse; when they start out on the wrong road they arrive at the wrong place.

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.

YAHWEH says " I will put it in their hearts to fulfill MY will and to give these over to them until the word of YAHWEH is fulfilled.." So they are going to pass judgement on her, YAHWEH will put it in their hearts. "And I will direct My indignation against you, I will commit the judgement to them and they shall judge you according to their judgements," indicating YAHWEH holds HIMSELF as though HE is responsible, HE is allowing them to judge her, as though HE is putting HIS judgement in their hearts. Well how does this take place? Well, whether a man believes in YAHWEH or not he is still created in YAHWEH'S attributes. And we find, regardless of who it is, whether he is good or bad, when he finds that someone is really wronged his indignation is aroused. When he has been cheated, or when someone has taken the best of him, or lied to him in some way. these attributes will come to the fore. So actually what it will be it will be the indignation of those who are right against those who are wrong, and in this way, YAHWEH says HE is putting it in their hearts to judge the matter. Because it is HIS attributes that are coming out.. He will allow the ten kings to turn against her.

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.

This indicates a complete destruction, it is not of a woman. It is an organization, a nation who has forsaken YAHWEH, a nation who has sought help in the devil's organization. Rather than remain true to YAHWEH.

"..they shall seize your sons and daughters, and your survivors shall be devoured by fire."

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

This indicates not only will she be destroyed, she will be robbed, brought to a complete end.

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.

YAHWEH promised complete destruction, and this is what will happen. And those people who took on the NAME of YAHWEH, who were supposed to honor HIS NAME, and dishonored, you will find that they came to a terrible end. There were those who were very very loyal, some of the most loyal people came from the twelve tribes of Israel, but they were few and far between. These had to suffer the agonizing experience of living through this faithless generation. They had to see the promises of YAHWEH completely crumble about them, they had to see the beloved city of Jerusalem besieged and ransacked and destroyed. And they remained faithful. They continued to cry to YAHWEH for blessings to the very end. They cried for the LORD'S People.

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:

In considering the abomination of desolation where religion will have a great part. She doesn't really love the ones she is associating with, there is no natural love in these creatures, she will be associating herself with organizations that have opposed her. And there is no real love lost between them. It will be a strategic move, a move where she can gain prestige, gain honor, authority, power. It will be a selfish move, it will not be a move of love. There is no love between the catholic organization and russia, there is no love between the catholic organization and the united states. During the second world war they had a certain catholic priest, who was continuously day in and day out knocking the system, knocking the president Roosevelt, during the war, in the hopes of turning the hearts of the american people on the sides of the axis powers. It

was continuous. The united states is a protestant nation one who has broken away from catholicism, so they don't really love this country, None of them love one another. But she does commit spiritual fornication with those whom she hates, and those who hate her will eventually turn on her, those who hate her and those whom she hates.

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.

She will lose everything that she gains. When they turn on her she will be thoroughly exposed, To be uncovered means they will see all of her. This is referring to an uncovering of the secret things that she has kept hidden. The secret movements, the secret associations, that she has made that the common people know nothing about. But it will all come out. YAHWEH says there is nothing hid that will not be revealed. And it will all be revealed and we will all know just how this satanic organization operates.

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.

This happened to israel, it will happen to those who claim to be the LORD'S People today. It is a warning against those who are in line to be True Israel of YAHWEH never to follow in these steps. Because we see the undeniable results, it is history now, that those who have rejected YAHWEH were destroyed. (end of side one of tape)...resistance and seek security in egypt, or seek security in this world. YAHWEH will completely reject you because you had a spiritual blessing which no one has had. You are now living at the time of the outpouring of HIS Spirit. And it is up to you to honor HIM. Learn from the lessons of the past not to follow the course of the israel of the flesh. The minute you do that the spirit is removed and you will have no more guidance, you don't know the way, and you begin to lose your own fleshly mind, and your fleshly mind is no match for the devil. The minute you lose your head and YAHWEH isn't there you are done; you are finished. The minute you stop you are finished. Only if YAHWEH is with you will you have the answers, and you will be directed and you will be helped, you will be led to safety, you will gain the victory.

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

In other words, what she partook of you will partake of, the destruction that she reaped, you also will reap.

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.

She is going to arrive at a situation where she will be completely disgraced and brought low, and finally destroyed. "filled with drunkenness and sorrow." indicating she can no longer reason, and when she can't reason the problems will pile up. When they will pile up there will be much sorrow, how can someone be happy when problems multiply. It is bad enough when you can;t solve the present problems without having problems added upon problems.

"...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:

This indicates an agony, that she will arrive at, when this situation takes place. This actually did take place with samaria and it is going to happen to those who claim to be the LORD'S People. It will happen to many of those who are in line for Israel, who come in and partake of the heavenly blessings, and then walk out. For some selfish incidental reason they walk out. In other words, YAHWEH'S blessings are not enough for me, I would rather get along with this person or that person, I'd rather not have any trouble, I would like to have a peaceful home. Many other things. Anything put above YAHWEH is sin. If you want to straighten out the problems at home, seek YAHWEH, or anything. Stick to HIM. Only by sticking to HIM, is there a possibility that the other person can see and receive YAHWEH'S blessings. If you quit, you're done and so is the other person done. But if you seek YAHWEH even if the other person doesn't make it, then that person wasn't going to make it anyhow. What have you lost? You lost a person that was not going to live. You have lost someone who will not be there, they weren't going to make it anyway, so why should you die for someone that wasn't going to make it. We are all responsible to honor HIM.

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.

What did they do? They have forgotten YAHWEH and cast HIM behind their back and they will bear the consequences. This is pretty coarse language for Israel to understand. How could they do this, they have done it. Not only have they done it, they are doing it now among us. We have people come in and gain a knowledge and leave, walk right out. The devil will put a lot of people in here, plant them and they will remove themselves, and the purpose of the devil is to pull others out besides them. There is nothing to be concerned about, Israel will not be moved; not True Israel. But he can cause a certain amount of anxiety. YAHWEH permits this It is part of your education. It's an

education that you will never forget.

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,

Anyone who commits this spiritual adultery, ends in death. They are the cause of bloodshed, they are the cause of death. Only through obedience to YAHWEH can bring blessings. Disobedience brings death. The greatest sinners are those who have taken on the leadership, those who claim to be guiding the human race in GODliness. These are the ones who are guiltiest of the greatest bloodshed. Yahshua referred to the scribes and pharisees, the religious leaders, and He said "upon your skirts shall be found all the righteous blood shed, from Able to Zechariah." In other words, they are guilty of all the blood, if religion had spoken truth, and brought out the truth according to YAHWEH'S law, according to YAHWEH'S will, you wouldn't have the horrible christian wars, that the world has experienced. If the pope spoke up there would be 600 million catholics that would raise their voices against the wars, right there. It would put a stop to it. We find this is not the case, and they are guilty of tremendous bloodshed.

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].

The israelites went so far as to sacrifice their sons and daughters. burned them in a sacrifice as you might burn a lamb. YAHWEH says that HE has never commanded this, it never entered HIS mind, HE says this so clearly that it was not HIS idea. How did they come to do all these things? How did they get so perverted? Demonism.

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

In other words they defiled YAHWEH'S Organization, profaned the sabbath, or the time they were supposed to be resting and serving HIM. How did this come about? HE says:

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.

When they had conducted their heathen rituals, then they came to worship in HIS temple. How filthy, how corrupt. These people went and serviced the demons and then they went and served YAHWEH in the temple. Actually adding insult to injury. If they worshipped these things they should have never come around to YAHWEH'S 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.

HE is picturing here a lewd and adulterous woman who has completely lost control of herself and she doesn't care who she gets, she even sends away for men. You will find today people even put ads in the paper for different partners. YAHWEH is picturing israel as this type of woman who has completely depraved and her body controls her altogether, and she doesn't care who she gets, or how she gets them. And on top of it all she paints herself up to make herself look desirable, lays on the couch, and spreads YAHWEH'S incense and oil. In other words, she mingles HIS worship with all of this. The LORD'S People will have to differentiate between the pure worship of YAHWEH and demonism which will take a partial worship of YAHWEH and endeavor to lead you astray. There will be those who accept the truth partially, and then they will try to get you go along with them and get you to do what they want to do. And the whole overall purpose will be to get you out of YAHWEH'S organization, YAHWEH'S Israel. You will have to be very careful that a person is really sincere. For this reason marriage is one of the most serious steps you can take. When you meet someone in the truth, two new people, don't marry right away. They have to prove themselves. And there is no greater proof than the passing of time. Time is the greatest test. Time causes endurance. Endurance that has been met successfully is the greatest test that that person is sincere. This is one of the ways the devil can work. And you can have a lot of trouble. And if you are weak, you can get mixed up, you will be divided between your partner and YAHWEH. In other words, regardless of what it is, you are headed for trouble.

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

This is all part of the orgy, this is all part of the move, you might say.

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.

In other words, the whole act was a beastly act. There was no love, there was no blessing, it was purely carnal. It fought against the spirit. This is what spiritual adultery will actually do. When

you begin to compromise, when you begin to make dealings with the members of this world, with those who threaten you, your opponents, you have committed spiritual fornication. You begin to be torn apart because your conscience will tear at you. It will begin to affect you and you will feel like a lowly, worthless failure. Instead of feeling like a lofty GODLY creature that has been created in YAHWEH'S image. It is better to suffer, regardless of what manner of torture or imprisonment, and have a clear conscience rather than to be let out of prison having compromised. You will not be able to live with yourself. Take whatever YAHWEH permits, YAHWEH will not permit more than you can bear.

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.

Now who are these righteous men that are going to pass judgement. These are the men of the world. These are the men who are going to employ YAHWEH'S attributes and realize what a filthy lousy organization that they have been associated with. And their indignation will arise, and they will judge her properly; that she is truly a farce, that she has done all these things under the pretense of being YAHWEH'S servant. All the time she has served herself. These things ordinary men will understand.

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.

So you see the one who is committing fornication is an organization; they have sons and daughters and houses, and everything. They are going to be destroyed. It is a nation that HE is referring to, and it is brought about because of disobedience to HIM.

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

Women? People, nations, organizations. YAHWEH'S People, HIS creatures, HE uses the symbol of a woman.

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.