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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: July 17, 2017**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 16:1-63**

**Text: Ezekiel 16:1-63**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Harlotry of Jerusalem**

- **VERSES 1-4: THE LORD COMMANDS EZEKIEL TO CAUSE JERUSALEM TO KNOW HER ABOMINATIONS WHICH WERE FIRST IN HER PARENTS NATURALLY.**

**Ezekiel 16:1-14** *Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **2** Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, **3** And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.*

Here is a lesson about genealogy. Can any boast of the greatness and godliness of their natural parents? Not one – for our parents were all inherently depraved every whit. So it was with Israel whose father is listed as an Amorite. Like the NT Jews, they could have said, “We have Abraham to our father,” but we ask: “Where was Abram before when God called him forth from Ur of the Chaldees? Was not he a heathen? Did not he bow to idols? Was not his kindred given to idolatry?” And the Amorites, were they not the worst of the seven nations of the Canaanites? Doubtless, they were, for God was moved to say to Abraham these words concerning the future land to be given to Israel:

**Genesis 15:16** *But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

And the mother, naturally speaking, was an Hittite. Doubtless, the Hittites were first spoken of as “the sons of Heth” in the book of Genesis. Let’s read about them:

**Genesis 26:34-35** *And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: **35** Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.*

**Genesis 27:46** *And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?*

Thus we see that God reminds Israel of whom they came naturally speaking. Can you and I claim that our forefathers and mothers were not vile and depraved naturally speaking?

- **IN VERSES 4-14, THE LORD USES THE METAPHOR OF A WOMAN CHILD, HER NATIVITY AND UPBRINGING TO REPRESENT HIS BLESSING ON THE NATION IN A MATERIAL SENSE.**
- In the next verses of this chapter Israel is represented under the simile of a female infant, whose birth, breeding, marriage, grandeur, and conduct, are described, in order to show the

wickedness and ingratitude of the LORD's people. These next verses, 4 through 14, show the great temporal blessing the LORD poured on this undeserving and dying infant.

**4** *And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. 5 None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. 6 And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. 7 I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare. 8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. 9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. 10 I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. 11 I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. 12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. 13 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. 14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness,*

*which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.*

- **IN VERSES 15-25, THE LORD ENUMERATES JERUSALEM'S ABUSE AND MIS-USE OF HER BLESSINGS.**

**Ezekiel 16:15-25** **15** *But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. 16* *And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so. 17* *Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them, 18* *And tookest thy brodered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them. 19* *My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD. 20* *Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, 21* *That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them? 22* *And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood. 23* *And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee! saith the Lord GOD;) 24* *That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street. 25* *Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.*

- **IN VERSES 26-34, THE LORD DETAILS THE SPECIFICS OF JERUSALEM'S WHOREDOME.**

**Ezekiel 16:26-34** *Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger. 27 Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way. 28 Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied. 29 Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith. 30 How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman; 31 In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire; 32 But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! 33 They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom. 34 And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary.*

APPLICATION: As gentiles, we cannot claim that our land (The United States of America) is a chosen nation of God. We can say that our land has been greatly blessed in past years because of the great influence of God's word in our land. Alexis De Tocqueville said this of our Land as he toured the nation around the years

1831-1834.

“America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” — [Alexis de Tocqueville](#)

As individual believers, we claim that we are saved wholly by the grace of God. We know and understand that it is God who gives us power to get wealth as we live our lives under the sun. If he blesses us, as he did Israel, would we dare to take that which he has blessed us with and commit spiritual fornication with the wicked as Israel did? Will we hire “lovers” – those of this world to try and find satisfaction in this vale of tears from which we shall soon pass? Will we trust the weak and beggarly elements of this world to take care of us instead of having total trust and faith in our God? Will we remember that we came into this world naked having not a single thing in our hands? Or, will we remember how greatly God has blessed us and strive to honor Him first and foremost in our lives?

- **VERSES 35-43 DETAILS THE LORD’S JUDGMENT OF JERUSALEM’S HARLOTRY.**

**Ezekiel 16:35-43** *Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD: **36** Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them; **37** Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. **38** And I*

*will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy. 39 And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare. 40 They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords. 41 And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more. 42 So will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry. 43 Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.*

- **VERSES 44-59 SPEAKS OF THE PROVERBS OF JERUSALEM TO BE USED AGAINST HER AND HER SISTERS, SAMARIA AND SODOM. 53-59 SPEAKS OF THE BRINGING AGAIN OF ISRAEL WITH SAMARIA, SODOM & HER DAUGHTERS.**

**Ezekiel 16:44-59** *Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. 45 Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite. 46 And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters. 47 Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations:*

*but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways. **48** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. **49** Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. **50** And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. **51** Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. **52** Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters. **53** When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them: **54** That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them. **55** When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate. **56** For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride, **57** Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about. **58** Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD. **59** For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.*

Verses 53 through 59 details a promise of restoration. The sore chastisements coming on Judah would fail to reform its people. God's returning goodness alone would bring this about which shows us how entirely of grace was to be their restoration or ours. The restoration of her erring sisters is mentioned before hers, even as their punishment preceded her punishment; so all self-boasting is excluded. "Ye shall, indeed, at some time or other return, but Moab and Ammon shall return with you, and some of the ten tribes (Samaria)."

**When I shall bring again their captivity** -- that is, change the affliction into prosperity. We see what this means by consulting the turning of Job's troubles into blessing.

**Job 42:10** *And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*

Sodom itself was not so restored ([Jer 20:16](#)), but Ammon and Moab (her representatives, as sprung from Lot who dwelt in Sodom) were in part restored under Cyrus; but the full realization of the restoration is yet future.

**Jeremiah 48:47** *Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.*

**Jeremiah 49:6** *And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the LORD.*

- **VERSES 60-63 DESCRIBES THE FUTURE BLESSING TO BOTH ISRAEL AND HER "SISTERS" WITH THE EVERLASTING COVENANT.**

**Ezekiel 16:60-63** *Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. **61** Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. **62** And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: **63** That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.*

The LORD promised to remember his covenant with Israel in the days of their youth – that is, at Sinai. Moreover, He would establish unto them an everlasting covenant which is promised in Jeremiah 31.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **32** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: **33** But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their*

*God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

***61 Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. 62 And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:***

The nation as a whole has not yet experienced the covenant, but shall experience it when the whole of the nation is saved in one day. When they are brought into the bond of the new covenant, then shall be with them, individuals in the Lord's churches out of all kindreds, people, nations, and languages. Israel shall be, at this point, the chief nations and those of other nations received as daughters. But this will not BE BY THE COVENANT AT SINAI. When the LORD brings them into the covenant, then they shall know that He is the LORD!

***63 That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.***

***Ezekiel 20:40-44*** *For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I*

*accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. **41** I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. **42** And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. **43** And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. **44** And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*