### Ezekiel

## Chapter 23

1And the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘O son of man,  
  
 [‘Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘Two women were the daughters of one mother,  
 3And they were immoral during their youth.  
 For, they [had sex] down in Egypt…  
 Yes, there is where their breasts fell [to others],  
 And it’s where they lost their virgin condition.  
  
 4‘The eldest one’s name was ‘Her Tent’,  
 And her sister was named ‘Her Tent is Within Her’.  
 To Me, they both had been given  
 To bear My sons and My daughters.  
  
 ‘Are these really their names? No!  
 I’m calling Samaria, ‘Her Tent’,  
 And ‘Her Tent is Within Her’ is JeruSalem.  
  
 5‘‘Her Tent’ [that is, Samaria] had been unfaithful to Me,  
 And she doted upon all her lovers…  
 The Assyrians, with whom she had [slept]…  
 6Their blue-clad commanders and leaders,  
 And the choicest of all their young men,  
 As well as those who ride horses.  
  
 7‘To them, she offered herself…  
 To the choicest of Assyria’s sons.  
 She gave herself to those she desired,  
 And wholeheartedly made herself dirty.  
  
 8‘But her affair with Egypt hadn’t ended...  
 Those with whom she had [slept] in her youth...  
 She gave her virginity to them,  
 And they poured [their semen] upon her.  
  
 9‘So I handed her to all her lovers,  
 To the sons of the Assyrians, whom she desired...  
 10And they uncovered her shame.  
 Then they took her sons and her daughters  
 And slaughtered them all with their swords.  
 The women also gossiped about her,  
 When [the Assyrians] brought vengeance upon her.  
  
 11‘But when ‘Her Tent is Within Her’ [that is, JeruSalem] saw what had happened,  
 She became more corrupt [than her sister]…  
 Yes, even more immoral than her.  
  
 12‘For she loved the sons of Assyria…  
 Those nearby commanders and leaders  
 Who wore such elegant clothes,  
 And the men who rode on their horses…  
 Yes, all of their choicest young men.  
  
 13‘So I saw that they’d both been defiled,  
 And that both were the same [kind of ‘women’].  
  
 14‘Then, to her bad ways, she added,  
 As she looked upon men who were painted on walls…  
 Images of the Chaldeans,  
 Depicted with brush strokes on [stone],  
 15Wearing colored belts on their hips,  
 As well as deeply-dyed turbans,  
 All giving the appearance of officials  
 Among the sons of Babylon…  
 Of her fatherland, the Chaldeans.  
  
 16‘She doted on them with her eyes,  
 And she sent her messengers to them  
 There in the land of Chaldea.  
  
 17‘So those sons of Babylon arrived,  
 And on her marriage-bed they then rested…  
 In their immoral ways, they defiled her.  
  
 ‘And as she was being defiled,  
 She put her life in their hands…  
 18Her immoral shame, she uncovered…  
 She removed My soul from her life  
 As her sister had already done.  
  
 19Then, she became even worse,  
 As she forgot the days of her youth  
 When she [had sex] down in Egypt  
 20And started thinking about the Chaldeans.  
 For, they had flesh just like burros,  
 And genitals like those of horses.  
  
 21‘She turned from the lawless ways of her youth  
 And from the things that she did down in Egypt...  
 That place in which she’d once lodged  
 And where the breasts of her youth had first fallen [to others].  
  
 22‘So, because of this, O ‘Her Tent is Within Her’ [that is, JeruSalem];  
 {Look!} I’ve awakened your ‘lovers’ against you…  
 Yes, those to whom you once gave your soul.  
 And now, I will bring them against you,  
 Then they will come and surround you…  
 23The sons of Chaldea and Babylon  
 – Pekod, Shoa, and Koa –  
 Along with Assyria’s sons  
 And all of their choicest young men…  
 Their governors, commanders, and tribunes,  
 And the famous ones riding on horses.  
  
 24‘From the north, they’ll all come against you  
 With weapons and chariot wheels…  
 Many nations with chest plates, helmets, and shields.  
 They’ll surround you and throw up a siege mound;  
 Then judgment, I’ll put on their faces,  
 So you’ll be punished by their form of justice.  
  
 25‘Against you, I will then show My zeal,  
 And I’ll deal with you in My rage.  
 They’ll cut off your nose and your ears,  
 And they’ll cut up what’s left with the sword.  
  
 ‘Then they’ll take your sons and your daughters;  
 And all that remains will be burned.  
 26They’ll strip off all of your clothes,  
 And remove all the things of which you’re so proud.  
  
 27‘Your impious deeds, I’ll remove,  
 Along with the bad things you practiced in Egypt.  
 To them, you won’t raise your eyes anymore,  
 And you’ll not think of Egypt again.’  
  
 28‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll hand you to those who detest you...  
 Those to whom you’ve given your soul.  
 29Then they’ll deal with you in their hatred  
 And take all the things for which you’ve worked hard,  
 Leaving you naked and disgraced.  
 Your immoral shame, they’ll uncover,  
 Including your irreverence and whoring.  
  
 30‘They’ll do all these things, because you’re a whore  
 Who defiled herself by thinking of them.  
 31So, since you’ve followed in your sister’s ways,  
 I’ll now put her cup in your hands.’  
  
 32‘And Jehovah said:  
  
 You’ll drink deeply from the cup of your sister…  
 You’ll drink so much that you’ll laugh,  
 And in your drunken condition, you’ll sneer.  
  
 33‘For from the cup of extinction, you will be filled,  
 And it will make you feel weak…  
 The same cup of Samaria, your sister.  
  
 34‘You will drink and then you will vomit…  
 Shards of broken pots, you will eat,  
 And you will start pulling your breasts.  
  
 ‘Then, I will pervert your holiday feasts,  
 As well as all your New Moons…  
 Yes I’ve said that I will pervert them,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 35‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Because you forgot Me and pushed Me aside,  
 You’ll get what you’re due for your whoring!’  
  
 36‘And Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Now, judge between ‘Her Tent’ [Samaria]  
 And ‘Her Tent is Within Her’ [JeruSalem].  
 Yes, speak to them of their lawless ways…  
 37Of their adultery and the blood on their hands.  
 For, even their thoughts are adulterous,  
 And they’ve led the children they bore Me through fire!  
  
 38‘Then, as they did this against Me;  
 They defiled My holy things in that day,  
 And they have profaned all My Sabbaths.  
  
 39‘They [offered] their children to idols,  
 And entered My Holy Place to profane it…  
 See what they’ve done in My Temple!  
  
 40‘Then, to those in far-away lands,  
 They sent messengers and begged them to come.  
 And as they were coming, they bathed…  
 They decked themselves out and [painted] their eyes.  
  
 41‘Before a spread table, they sat on a bed  
 And set before them My incense and oil...  
 Which these men found very delightful.  
  
 42‘Then the sounds of harmony and music  
 Was played before men who were drunk…  
 Men who’d just come from the desert.  
 Then upon their arms, they put bracelets,  
 And garlands of boasting, they put on their heads.  
  
 43‘Although I told them that they must be [faithful];  
 In the ways of a whore, they [had sex].  
 44So, they entered within them  
 As a man would enter a whore…  
 They entered ‘Her Tent’ [Samaria] and ‘Her Tent is Within Her’ [JeruSalem]…  
 Two lawless ‘women’ with lawless ways.  
  
 45‘But because [their lovers] are also just men,  
 They will punish them both  
 With the punishment that’s due an adulteress.  
 In justice, they’ll pour out their blood  
 For the adultery and blood on their hands.’  
  
 46‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Now, bring the armies against them…  
 Bring disturbance and ravaging to them.  
  
 47‘May those armies then stone them with rocks  
 And run them through with their swords!  
 Kill their sons and their daughters,  
 And burn down all of their homes!  
  
 48‘Yes, their godless [lovers], I’ll bring to this land  
 In order to correct these two ‘women,’  
 So they’ll not be godless again.  
  
 49‘I’ll bring their irreverence down on their heads,  
 And they’ll bear their own sins and ideas…  
 Then they’ll know that I am Jehovah!’