

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel
Message 22
January 31, 2016



Queen Jezebel Punished by Jehu Painting by Andrea Celesti Cir. 1650-1699

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel
Message Twenty-Two
The False Prophetesses Are Condemned
January 31, 2016
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Ezekiel 13:17-23

¹⁷And thou, son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, that prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them, ¹⁸and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Woe to the women that sew pillows upon all elbows, and make kerchiefs for the head of persons of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and save souls alive for yourselves? ¹⁹And ye have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hearken unto lies.

²⁰Wherefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly. ²¹Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah. ²²Because with lies ye have grieved the heart of the righteous, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, and be saved alive: ²³Therefore ye shall no more see false visions, nor divine divinations: and I will deliver my people out of your hand; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

FALSE WOMEN PROPHETESSES

Ezekiel 13:17

¹⁷And thou, son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, that prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them (ASV, 1901),

Ezekiel is now told to direct his attention to the false prophetesses. They were sorcerers who practiced witchcraft and Baal worship, which is a form of the occult. They conducted séances prophesying for the population they deceived. Because of the special sexual charm of women to men they can easily lead the unsuspecting away from God and into sin and idolatry. In Revelation 2:14, God tells the church in Pergamum that Balaam taught Balak how to ruin the people of Israel, by involving them in sexual sin, and encouraging them to go to idol feasts (from Numbers chapters 22-25). These women prophesied with prophecies they made up and did not come from God. God now wants Ezekiel to condemn them. Jeremiah in Jerusalem was condemning them too.

Jeremiah 44:15-19

¹⁵Then all the men who knew that their wives burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great assembly, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, ¹⁶As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of Jehovah, we will not hearken unto thee. ¹⁷But we will certainly perform every word that is gone forth out of our mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. ¹⁸But since we left off burning incense to the queen of heaven, and pouring out drink-offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. ¹⁹And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink-offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink-offerings unto her, without our husbands (ASV, 1901)?

The men approved of their wives worshipping the occult even the Queen of Heaven, which is a reference to Semiramis the wife, and mother of Nimrod. The women affirmed their intent to continue with these idolatrous practices in light of God's condemnation of this through the prophet Jeremiah. They wanted the occult instead of Jehovah God.

After Gideon the righteous Judge died (cir. 1144 BC) the people turned again to the Baalim (Idolatry) for their worship. Baalim is plural for Baal, which is the name of the most noted name in the Canaanite gods. This was the god of fertility in the Canaanite pantheon (roster of gods), Baal's sphere of influence included agriculture, animal husbandry, and especially human sexuality. The sexual aspect was the draw to get men into Baal worship or Baalim. This is just another aspect of the occult.

Judges 8:33-35

³³And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and played the harlot after the Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god. ³⁴And the children of Israel remembered not Jehovah their God, who had delivered them out of the hand of all their enemies on every side; ³⁵neither showed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, according to all the goodness, which he had showed unto Israel (ASV, 1901).

The worship of the Baalim originated with the Canaanites and the Jews went after it because of the sexual pleasure with which they were enticed by the Canaanite women. When they entered Canaan the Israelites came across Baals in various places and soon they also worshipped the fertility deity. In fact, they had already played spiritual harlotry with Baal-peor in Moab (Numbers 25:3-5); according to Numbers 25 they were attracted to the sensuous nature of the worship of the Moabite Baal-peor ("owner or lord of Peor"). Peor was a mountain. The Lord takes this so seriously that He had Moses hang the chief perpetrators.

Numbers 25:1-5

And Israel abode in Shittim; and the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab: ²for they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods; and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. ³And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel. ⁴And Jehovah said unto Moses, Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them up unto Jehovah before the sun, that the fierce anger of Jehovah may turn away from Israel. ⁵And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that have joined themselves unto Baal-peor (ASV, 1901).

This did not stop the Israelites from worshipping sex and the Baal occult. Baal worship was very prominent in the northern kingdom of Israel during the days of King Ahab (885-850 BC) when he married Jezebel a Baal worshipper who was firmly grounded in the occult. She came from Tyre, which was a city in Phoenicia, modern day Lebanon (1 Kings 16:29–33; 18:19–40). Baal worship spread into the southern kingdom of Judah when Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, married King Jehoram of Judah (2 Kings 8:17–18, 24–26). Places for worship of Baal were often high places in the hills consisting of an altar and a sacred tree, stone, or pillar (2 Kings 23:5). The Phoenicians built temples to Baal; while Athaliah was queen of Judah, even Jerusalem had one (2 Chronicles 23:12–17). The Canaanites engaged in orgiastic worship that included human child sacrifice as well as sexual rites (Jeremiah 7:31; 19:4–6). Sacred prostitutes participated in the fall religious ritual encouraging rainfall. The worship of Baal is strongly condemned in the OT (Judges 2:12–14; 3:7–8; Jeremiah 19) as it is here in Ezekiel. This is what these women prophetesses were doing to pollute Jerusalem with the occult.

METHODS OF PRACTICING THE OCCULT

Ezekiel 13:18

¹⁸and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Woe to the women that sew pillows upon all elbows, and make kerchiefs for the head of persons of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and save souls alive for yourselves (ASV, 1901)?

Part of the so-called magic ritual these women performed was to put pillows (Hebrew *casot*) under the armpits of the clients and kerchiefs on their head. The Hebrew word translated as pillows only appears once in the Bible and it appears to be a reference to occultic magic. They then told them that this would enable the gullible to foretell the future by calling up occult powers and requesting them to prophecy for them. The kerchiefs were supposed to assist the client in some sort of mind control with the charade. They would just use witchcraft to harm the innocent while spreading the occult along with the false male prophets. As purveyors of the occult they hunted the souls of the gullible who were enticed by their own sin into following these women. In doing so they also hunted the righteous through deception. They were eagerly trying to allure them to the love of themselves (prophetesses) so as unwarily to become their prey. This is the road to the occult through sexual immorality and false magic.

Proverbs 6:26-29

²⁶ For on account of a harlot a man is brought to a piece of bread; And the adulteress hunteth for the precious life. ²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? ²⁸ Or can one walk upon hot coals, And his feet not be scorched? ²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; Whosoever toucheth her shall not be unpunished (ASV, 1901).

While they hunted the souls for themselves to draw others into the occult they thought that they would save themselves (their own souls) from any peril. It was as if they knew they were drawing others into perdition but they thought they were immune from the evil. The worst aspect of this is the fact that they proclaimed their prophecies to be God given.

This is and has been very prevalent in Christendom in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. Women prophets, are very alluring instruments of Satan. Many of the prominent leaders in the evil cults of the last days are women. Spiritualism, Christian Science, the Seventh Day Adventists, and the emerging Church all have these false women prophetesses. The first three groups started with women. Spiritualism with its mediums, fortune-tellers and necromancers was almost entirely organized by women, who claim to be the religious leaders. A woman started the Christian Science cult and so also was the Seventh Day Adventists began by a woman. The emerging church has a whole host of women in pulpits evading sound Bible teaching in favor of personal gain. Each one of the false teachers and movements like Spiritualism, Seventh Day Adventism, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science and The Emerging Church others deny the eternal punishment of the wicked. They strengthen the hands of the wicked by promising him life. Women having authority over Israel was causing the destruction of righteousness (Isaiah 3:12)

SPIRITUALISM

1. Kate and Margaret Fox of New York
2. Amy Post of New York
3. Achsa W Sprague Vermont
4. Cora L. Scott of New York

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Mary Baker Eddy

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Ellen G. White

THE EMERGING CHURCH

1. Joyce Meyer
2. Marilyn Hickey
3. Jan Crouch
4. Paula White

5. Juanita Bynum
6. Victoria Osteen
7. Gloria Copeland
8. Beth Moore
9. Gwen Shamblin
10. Tammy Faye Baker

DECEPTION FOR PERSONAL GAIN

Ezekiel 13:19

¹⁹And ye have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hearken unto lies (ASV, 1901).

These women claimed to speak for God and in doing so He said, “*ye have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread.*” The eternal value of a relationship and obedience to God has been exchange for meager barley and bread. They exchanged the most valuable entity and treasure there is for something with very little value. This would condemn the souls to die who were unsuspecting of what they were getting into, losing eternity. This is how they worked their wicked trade. They slew, *or* drew into eternal destruction, the souls that were meant for eternal life. They saved the souls alive *meaning* their own physical lives and the unrighteous, which were worthy of death. That was the outcome of their “lying” divinations. In other words they caused the eternal destruction of their unsuspecting clients and saved themselves and the wicked for a time by selling their wickedness. The Lord Jesus condemned the Pharisees for doing the same thing (Matthew 23:13).

THE LORD PROCLAIMS HE IS AGAINST THEM

Ezekiel 13:20-21

²⁰Wherefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly. ²¹Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Here God affirms that He is against their evil works and the means by which they ply their wickedness on the unsuspecting. They are trapping souls that would have gone into Heaven but they have diverted them to Hell for all eternity. These people had a rightful reward that was taken away from them by these false prophetesses. This is a severe rebuke by God on false teaching and false prophecy. These women were conducting necromancy séances and claimed to hear from the people who had previously died. This is what the spiritists do today. One prime example in the Bible is the witch of Endor who brought Samuel back at the request of King Saul (I Samuel 28:7-19). God says that He will set the souls free that have been entrapped into Hell because of the work of these evil women. God would deliver the *faithful* (my people) from the clutches of these ruthless women.

When they saw their hold on the population shattered, they would come to know the true nature of God. God never said that He would free the wicked clients that came to these wicked women. By this activity God would reveal Himself to these false prophetesses and they would realize exactly who controls eternity and watches over the affairs of the nation Israel as the Psalmist declares the Word of God.

Psalm 121:1-7

¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: From whence shall my help come? ² My help cometh from Jehovah, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ Jehovah is thy keeper: Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, Nor the moon by night. Jehovah will keep thee from all evil; He will keep thy soul (ASV, 1901).

GOD WILL STOP THE WICKED PROPHETESSES

Ezekiel 13:22-23

²² Because with lies ye have grieved the heart of the righteous, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, and be saved alive: ²³ Therefore ye shall no more see false visions, nor divine divinations: and I will deliver my people out of your hand; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

These women had caused the righteous people to become disheartened with their lies. They also were doubly guilty because they did not encourage the wicked to turn from their ways. This is exactly the opposite of what God wants. Satan and his demons were actively defying God through these willing women with a false message with claims that it came from God. God is going to take away their meager false abilities to see visions and prophecies. When this happens the general population will see them for what they truly are, frauds. God would then force them to admit their sins. God said that He would banish false visions and divination from Israel and save His people from this terrible deception. God said the same thing through Jeremiah to the people of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 23:14-15

¹⁴ In the prophets of Jerusalem also I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies; and they strengthen the hands of evil-doers, so that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them become unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. ¹⁵ Therefore thus saith Jehovah of hosts concerning the prophets: Behold, I will feed them with wormwood (bitter food), and make them drink the water of gall (poison); for from the prophets of Jerusalem is ungodliness gone forth into all the land (ASV, 1901).

NEXT MESSAGE: THE LORD CONDEMNS IDOLATRESS ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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