2Thess #90

The unfaithful Believer embraces the cosmic system.

We will open back up in the OT where we left off in Ezekeil chapter 16.

We will do some repetition, as I realize we are covering difficult subject matter and material that truly needs to be digested.

The nation of Israel, from the time of the Egyptian Exodus into the promised land. Then throughout the history of kings and prophets – there was a consistent bouncing in and out of the plan of GOD.

It became so problematic that God allowed a great deal of misery and even discipline to call HIS people back.

After the reign of King Solomon there was a definitive shift and deeper problems arose among many of the Israelites.

By the time the Babylonian Exile occurred there was already a great deal of evil infiltrating the nation…both tribes.

Almost all the OT prophets addressed this issue at one time or another;

/Isa 57:5 Who **inflame yourselves among the oaks**, Under every luxuriant tree, Who **slaughter the children** in the ravines, Under the clefts of the rocks?

The sexual perversions and blood rituals welcomed a demonic presence into many households. The intermingling of marriage to foreigners also brought forth doorways for Satan.\

Satan and his army always look for an inroad into the life of Bels and the true Christian groups or families.

Remember what the Apostle Paul taught on this subject matter – which has nothing to do with skin color or culture;

/2Cor 6:14 **Do not be mismatched with unbelievers;** for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or **what does light have in common with darkness?** 15 Or **what harmony does Christ have with Belial**, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever?\

Belial comes from a Hebrew root word meaning the evil one, a wicked one – many relate this to Satan himself.

The worthless and ungodly one.

As you go to Ezekiel 16 let me show you something from chapter 23;

/Ezk 23:37 “For they **have committed adultery**, and **blood is on their hands**. So they have committed adultery with their idols, and even **made their sons, whom they bore to Me, pass through *the fire* to them as food**.

The babies GOD allows us to have are ultimately HIS, they are HIS creation! They were treated as flesh to be devoured by demonic entities.\

The children you have would never have come into this world without the grace and power of GOD.

/[Eze 23:38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/23/38/s_825038) “Again, **they have done this to Me:** they have **defiled My sanctuary** on the same day, and have profaned My Sabbaths. 39“For when **they slaughtered their children for their idols**, they entered My sanctuary on the same day to profane it; and behold, this is what **they did within My house**.\

God says this was done to ME – MY children…in MY house, under MY authority.

Ezekeil began his ministry around 592 BC, during extremely volatile times. King Nebuchadnezzar with the Babylonian military was marching across the landscape.

This is after Daniel is already taken captive. Actually, Ezekeil and Jeremiah’s ministries overlap. Ezekeil is charged with the Northern tribes which by the way, at this point are very loosely affiliated and Samaria was becoming the key mixing pot of Jews and Gentiles.

Ezekiel’s ministry carries warnings just as the Babylonian exile begins and also points right into the future prophecy of the 2nd Advent.

 Ezk 16:13 So you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk, and colorfully woven cloth. You ate fine flour, honey, and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.

In other words, GOD had blessed the Nation of Israel in the past and now they were falling apart.

/[Eze 16:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/14/s_818014) “Then your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, for **it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you**,” declares the Lord GOD.

All blessings and grace come from the hand of GOD – we can never take credit for HIS work and HIS power.\

Israel became the first client nation under GOD. Then under King David they became popular and highly respected.

/[Eze 16:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/15/s_818015) “But you trusted in your beauty and became unfaithful because of your fame, and **you poured out your obscene practices on every passer-by** to whom it might be *tempting.*

Israel began to partake of every forbidden ritual outside of its own gates and eventually welcomed them into their homes.\

[Eze 16:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/16/s_818016) “You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors, and committed prostitution on them, *which* should not come about nor happen.

Israel took the very blessings God adorned her with and she used those blessings to adorn the places of pagan idolatry.

/[Eze 16:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/17/s_818017) “You also took your beautiful jewels ***made* of My gold and of My silver**, which **I had given you**, and **made for yourself male images** so that you might commit prostitution with them.

The worship of Osiris and Bacchus (ancient Egyptian deities) involved calling upon the dead and ceremonies of perversion and public sex acts during intoxicated rituals.\

Both of these false gods are to be called back or resurrected from the dead in these ceremonies.

Counterfeits of Jesus Christ.

[Eze 16:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/18/s_818018) “Then you took your colorfully woven cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them.

[Eze 16:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/19/s_818019) “Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil, and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened,” declares the Lord GOD.

/[Eze 16:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/20/s_818020) “Furthermore, you took **your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured**. Were your obscene practices a trivial matter?

The drinking of blood and eating of flesh in many ceremonies was part of calling up the dark powers of the fallen star gods (demons and fallen angels).\

The depth of wickedness Satan can carry you into is grotesque. You will reach a point of not even recognizing yourself if you allow his cosmic system to carry you away.

[/Eze 16:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/21/s_818021) “**You slaughtered My children and offered them to idols** by making them pass through *the fire.*

GOD is proclaiming that all children and creation come from HIS hand as a gift. We are never to take HIS grace gifts for granted, much less offer them to demons.\

[Eze 16:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/22/s_818022) “And besides all your abominations and obscene practices, you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and squirming in your blood.

Pride and arrogance can overtake us, especially if we become complacent or successful.

There becomes a silent assumption of how great we truly are. Not focused on the GOD who blessed us with the ability and gifts that gave us this position.

 REPEAT

Never focus on the gift - but remain focused on the GIVER.

[Eze 16:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/23/s_818023) “Then it came about after all your wickedness (‘Woe, woe to you!’ declares the Lord GOD),

The original Hebrew is a cry of despair – OYE.. OYE!

[Eze 16:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/24/s_818024) that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every public square.

/Keeping in mind this is another historic overview much like we noted in Psalms 106. They kept dabbling and going astray, repenting and coming back. Then they finally began to erect idols and performing rituals to the foreign gods within the cities and towns inside the tribes of Israel. At the point of Babylonian captivity there was only a minority of Israelites still faithful to the true GOD.\

Very much like we see today in modern Christianity, it became a mix and match of whatever was popular and whatever they could blend into the Mosaic Law.

We see a lot of cosmic nonsense behind the pulpits and within the church walls today, which is not very different in the big picture.

[Eze 16:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/25/s_818025) “You built yourself a high place at the beginning of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by and multiplied your obscene practice.

[Eze 16:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/26/s_818026) “You also committed prostitution with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your obscene practice to provoke Me to anger.

[Eze 16:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/27/s_818027) “So behold, I have stretched out My hand against you and cut back your rations. And I turned you over to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your outrageous conduct.

/Ezk 16:26 – you multiplied your harlotry, (*taznûṯ)*

Ezk 16:27 – your lewd conduct, (*zimmâ*)

These are scriptures pointing to not only an unfaithful Bel toward GOD, but sexual perversions, sexual immortality and even heinous sexual behaviors.\

TAZ-NOOTH, ZIMM-AH, both of these Hebrew words speak to sexual immortality, adultery.

ZIMM-AH, actually points to heinous sexual behavior or criminal activity in the sexual arena, such as rape, pedophilia or ritual sacrifice. REPEAT

[Eze 16:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/28/s_818028) “Moreover, you committed prostitution with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you committed prostitution with them and still were not satisfied.

Moloch the god of human sacrifice was one of the most popular gods among the Assyrians.

/Their idolatry became worse, multiplying so far they not only went after the gods of the Assyrians and the Babylonians (Chaldea), they also formed political alliances with those nations. The temptation was not only to idolatry but also to reliance upon, and alliances with, foreign nations. They turned to the Assyrians, the historical accounts point to pro-Assyrian policies of both Ahaz and Manasseh (2King 16, Hosea 5, Amos 5).\

[Eze 16:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/29/s_818029) “You also multiplied your obscene practice with the land of merchants, Chaldea; yet even with this you were not satisfied.”’”

No matter how often they kept pursuing darker rituals and more twisted versions of foreign religions, they were never satisfied and they kept seeking more perversions.

[/Eze 16:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/30/s_818030) “**How feverish** (*'āmal)***is your heart**,” declares the Lord GOD, “while you do all these things, **the action of a bold** (*šalleṭeṯ)* **prostitute!**

The description Ezekiel is given by God the HS in this chapter, is deep insight to the sexual perversion and darkness they were involved with.\

AH-MEL, means to be sick to be weak or broken. To fall away into illness.

Depravity at its worst.

SHALL-ETH-EST, means a domineering prostitute an arrogant or cruel prostitute.

Some of the words or terms in the original Hebrew of Ezekiel chapter 16 are very graphic and vulgar.

[Eze 16:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/31/s_818031) “When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every public square, in spurning a prostitute’s fee, you were not like a prostitute.

There was no profit in all of this sexual and wicked debauchery they practiced.

In fact, they lost out on healthy marriages and good family gatherings or raising healthy children with morals and standards.

They destroyed that which GOD had given them.

[Eze 16:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eze/16/32/s_818032) “You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband!

/The description of the worship of foreign gods and sexual depravity as seen in Ezekiel amongst other prophets, tells a story of horrific practices. Human sacrifices, blood rituals, dark magic and religious rituals of the most bizarre and atrocious kind. Dark practices of cannibalism, sexual depravity, chanting or even musical calls of tongues and obscure languages were all common in the worship and calling up of demonic powers.\

Later in Ezekiel chapter 16 God puts it on the prophets’ heart, to speak of the northern and southern tribes of Israel as Sodom and Gomorrah.

**/**Sodom and Gomorrah are referenced for the two tribes of Israel (Ezk 16:46-53) which is only ever used for the worse sexual sins and ungodly behaviors known in the Bible. Rape, incest, pedophilia, orgies and same sex relations as well as fierce brutality and intoxication were all common practices in Sodom and Gomorrah. This indictment upon the lifestyle rituals of both tribes of Israel paints a very clear picture. Coupled with the blood shed of innocent children, we now can see a formula for calling upon dark spiritual forces.\