

Spiritual Adultery

James 4

³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

Jeremiah 3

¹ "They say, "If a man divorces his wife,

And she goes from him

And becomes another man's,

May he return to her again?

Would not that land be greatly polluted?

But you have played the harlot with many lovers;

Yet return to Me," says the LORD.

²"Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see:

Where have you not lain with men?

By the road you have sat for them

Like an Arabian in the wilderness;

And you have polluted the land

With your harlotries and your wickedness.

³Therefore the showers have been withheld,

And there has been no latter rain.

You have had a harlot's forehead;

You refuse to be ashamed.

⁴Will you not from this time cry to Me,

"My Father, You are the guide of my youth?"

⁵Will He remain angry forever?

Will He keep it to the end?'

Behold, you have spoken and done evil things,

As you were able."

⁶ The LORD said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: "Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.

⁷And I said, after she had done all these things, "Return to Me." But she did not return. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. ⁸Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. ⁹So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she

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defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. ¹⁰And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense," says the LORD.

¹¹Then the LORD said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. ¹²Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say:

"Return, backsliding Israel,' says the LORD;

"I will not cause My anger to fall on you.

For I am merciful,' says the LORD;

"I will not remain angry forever.

¹³Only acknowledge your iniquity,

That you have transgressed against the LORD your God,

And have scattered your charms

To alien deities under every green tree,

And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the LORD.

¹⁴"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. ¹⁵And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

¹⁶"Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the LORD, "that they will say no more, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore.

¹⁷"At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

¹⁸"In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.

¹⁹"But I said:

"How can I put you among the children

And give you a pleasant land,

A beautiful heritage of the hosts of nations?"

"And I said:

"You shall call Me, "My Father,"

And not turn away from Me.'

²⁰Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband,

So have you dealt treacherously with Me,

O house of Israel," says the LORD.

²¹A voice was heard on the desolate heights,

Weeping and supplications of the children of Israel.

For they have perverted their way;

They have forgotten the LORD their God.

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²²"Return, you backsliding children,
And I will heal your backslidings."
"Indeed we do come to You,
For You are the LORD our God.
²³Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills,
And from the multitude of mountains;
Truly, in the LORD our God
Is the salvation of Israel.
²⁴For shame has devoured
The labor of our fathers from our youth--
Their flocks and their herds,
Their sons and their daughters.
²⁵We lie down in our shame,
And our reproach covers us.
For we have sinned against the LORD our God,
We and our fathers,
From our youth even to this day,
And have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

Jeremiah 5

¹ "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem;
See now and know;
And seek in her open places
If you can find a man,
If there is anyone who executes judgment,
Who seeks the truth,
And I will pardon her.
²Though they say, "As the LORD lives,"
Surely they swear falsely."
³O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth?
You have stricken them,
But they have not grieved;
You have consumed them,
But they have refused to receive correction.
They have made their faces harder than rock;
They have refused to return.
⁴Therefore I said, "Surely these are poor.
They are foolish;
For they do not know the way of the LORD,
The judgment of their God.
⁵I will go to the great men and speak to them,
For they have known the way of the LORD,
The judgment of their God."
But these have altogether broken the yoke

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And burst the bonds.

⁶Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them,
A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them;
A leopard will watch over their cities.
Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces,
Because their transgressions are many;
Their backslidings have increased.

⁷"How shall I pardon you for this?
Your children have forsaken Me
And sworn by those that are not gods.
When I had fed them to the full,
Then they committed adultery
And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.

⁸They were like well-fed lusty stallions;
Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife.

⁹Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD.
"And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"

¹⁰"Go up on her walls and destroy,
But do not make a complete end.
Take away her branches,
For they are not the LORD's.

¹¹For the house of Israel and the house of Judah
Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the LORD.

¹²They have lied about the LORD,
And said, "It is not He.
Neither will evil come upon us,
Nor shall we see sword or famine.

¹³And the prophets become wind,
For the word is not in them.
Thus shall it be done to them."

¹⁴Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts:

"Because you speak this word,
Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire,
And this people wood,
And it shall devour them.

¹⁵Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar,
O house of Israel," says the LORD.

"It is a mighty nation,
It is an ancient nation,
A nation whose language you do not know,
Nor can you understand what they say.

¹⁶Their quiver is like an open tomb;
They are all mighty men.

¹⁷And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread,

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Which your sons and daughters should eat.
They shall eat up your flocks and your herds;
They shall eat up your vines and your fig trees;
They shall destroy your fortified cities,
In which you trust, with the sword.

¹⁸"Nevertheless in those days," says the LORD, "I will not make a complete end of you. ¹⁹And it will be when you say, 'Why does the LORD our God do all these things to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.'

²⁰"Declare this in the house of Jacob
And proclaim it in Judah, saying,

²¹"Hear this now, O foolish people,
Without understanding,
Who have eyes and see not,
And who have ears and hear not:

²²"Do you not fear Me?" says the LORD.
"Will you not tremble at My presence,
Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea,
By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it?
And though its waves toss to and fro,
Yet they cannot prevail;
Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

²³But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart;
They have revolted and departed.

²⁴They do not say in their heart,
"Let us now fear the LORD our God,
Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season.
He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

²⁵Your iniquities have turned these things away,
And your sins have withheld good from you.

²⁶"For among My people are found wicked men;
They lie in wait as one who sets snares;
They set a trap;
They catch men.

²⁷As a cage is full of birds,
So their houses are full of deceit.
Therefore they have become great and grown rich.

²⁸They have grown fat, they are sleek;
Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked;
They do not plead the cause,
The cause of the fatherless;
Yet they prosper,
And the right of the needy they do not defend.

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²⁹Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the LORD.
"Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"
³⁰"An astonishing and horrible thing
Has been committed in the land:
³¹The prophets prophesy falsely,
And the priests rule by their own power;
And My people love to have it so.
But what will you do in the end?"

Jeremiah 7

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ²"Stand in the gate of the LORD' s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!" ³Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. ⁴Do not trust in these lying words, saying, "The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these."

⁵"For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, ⁶if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

⁸"Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, "We are delivered to do all these abominations' ?" ¹¹Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD.

¹²"But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. ¹³And now, because you have done all these works," says the LORD, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, ¹⁴therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. ¹⁵And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren--the whole posterity of Ephraim.

¹⁶"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. ¹⁷Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and

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the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. ¹⁹Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the LORD. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?"

²⁰Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place--on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched."

²¹Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat meat. ²²For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. ²³But this is what I commanded them, saying, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'" ²⁴Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. ²⁵Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. ²⁶Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

²⁷"Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you.

²⁸"So you shall say to them, "This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. ²⁹Cut off your hair and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.'" ³⁰For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight," says the LORD. "They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it. ³¹And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.

³²"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Tophet until there is no room. ³³The corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. And no one will frighten them away. ³⁴Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 9

- ¹ Oh, that my head were waters,
And my eyes a fountain of tears,
That I might weep day and night
For the slain of the daughter of my people!
- ² Oh, that I had in the wilderness
A lodging place for travelers;
That I might leave my people,
And go from them!
For they are all adulterers,
An assembly of treacherous men.
- ³ "And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies.
They are not valiant for the truth on the earth.
For they proceed from evil to evil,
And they do not know Me," says the LORD.
- ⁴ "Everyone take heed to his neighbor,
And do not trust any brother;
For every brother will utterly supplant,
And every neighbor will walk with slanderers.
- ⁵ Everyone will deceive his neighbor,
And will not speak the truth;
They have taught their tongue to speak lies;
They weary themselves to commit iniquity.
- ⁶ "Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit;
Through deceit they refuse to know Me," says the LORD.
- ⁷ Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts:
"Behold, I will refine them and try them;
For how shall I deal with the daughter of My people?"
- ⁸ Their tongue is an arrow shot out;
It speaks deceit;
One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth,
But in his heart he lies in wait.
- ⁹ "Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD.
"Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"
- ¹⁰ I will take up a weeping and wailing for the mountains,
And for the dwelling places of the wilderness a lamentation,
Because they are burned up,
So that no one can pass through;
Nor can men hear the voice of the cattle.
Both the birds of the heavens and the beasts have fled;
They are gone.
- ¹¹ "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a den of jackals.
I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."
- ¹² Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to

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whom the mouth of the LORD has spoken, that he may declare it?
Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one
can pass through?

¹³And the LORD said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set
before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to
it, ¹⁴but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts
and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them," ¹⁵therefore thus
says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will feed them,
this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. ¹⁶I
will scatter them also among the Gentiles, whom neither they nor their
fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have
consumed them."

¹⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"Consider and call for the mourning women,
That they may come;
And send for skillful wailing women,
That they may come.

¹⁸Let them make haste
And take up a wailing for us,
That our eyes may run with tears,
And our eyelids gush with water.

¹⁹For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion:

"How we are plundered!
We are greatly ashamed,
Because we have forsaken the land,
Because we have been cast out of our dwellings."

²⁰Yet hear the word of the LORD, O women,
And let your ear receive the word of His mouth;
Teach your daughters wailing,
And everyone her neighbor a lamentation.

²¹For death has come through our windows,
Has entered our palaces,
To kill off the children--no longer to be outside!
And the young men--no longer on the streets!

²²Speak, "Thus says the LORD:

"Even the carcasses of men shall fall as refuse on the open field,
Like cuttings after the harvester,
And no one shall gather them."

²³Thus says the LORD:

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

²⁴But let him who glories glory in this,
That he understands and knows Me,

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That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.

For in these I delight," says the LORD.

²⁵"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that I will punish all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised-- ²⁶Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart."

Jeremiah 13

¹ Thus the LORD said to me: "Go and get yourself a linen sash, and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water." ² So I got a sash according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist.

³ And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying,

⁴ "Take the sash that you acquired, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole in the rock." ⁵ So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.

⁶ Now it came to pass after many days that the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there." ⁷ Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I took the sash from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, ruined. It was profitable for nothing.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁹ "Thus says the LORD: "In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing. ¹¹ For as the sash dings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to ding to Me," says the LORD, "that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear."

¹² "Therefore you shall speak to them this word: "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Every bottle shall be filled with wine."

"And they will say to you, "Do we not certainly know that every bottle will be filled with wine?"

¹³ "Then you shall say to them, "Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land--even the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem--with drunkenness! ¹⁴ And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together," says the LORD. "I will not pity nor spare nor have mercy, but will destroy them.""

¹⁵ Hear and give ear:

Do not be proud,
For the LORD has spoken.

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- ¹⁶Give glory to the LORD your God
Before He causes darkness,
And before your feet stumble
On the dark mountains,
And while you are looking for light,
He turns it into the shadow of death
And makes it dense darkness.
- ¹⁷But if you will not hear it,
My soul will weep in secret for your pride;
My eyes will weep bitterly
And run down with tears,
Because the LORD' s flock has been taken captive.
- ¹⁸Say to the king and to the queen mother,
"Humble yourselves;
Sit down,
For your rule shall collapse, the crown of your glory."
- ¹⁹The cities of the South shall be shut up,
And no one shall open them;
Judah shall be carried away captive, all of it;
It shall be wholly carried away captive.
- ²⁰Lift up your eyes and see
Those who come from the north.
Where is the flock that was given to you,
Your beautiful sheep?
- ²¹What will you say when He punishes you?
For you have taught them
To be chieftains, to be head over you.
Will not pangs seize you,
Like a woman in labor?
- ²²And if you say in your heart,
"Why have these things come upon me?"
For the greatness of your iniquity
Your skirts have been uncovered,
Your heels made bare.
- ²³Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?
Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.
- ²⁴"Therefore I will scatter them like stubble
That passes away by the wind of the wilderness.
- ²⁵This is your lot,
The portion of your measures from Me," says the LORD,
"Because you have forgotten Me
And trusted in falsehood.
- ²⁶Therefore I will uncover your skirts over your face,
That your shame may appear.

²⁷I have seen your adulteries
And your lustful neighings,
The lewdness of your harlotry,
Your abominations on the hills in the fields.
Woe to you, O Jerusalem!
Will you still not be made clean?"

Jeremiah 23

¹ "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. ³"But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD.

⁵"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD,
"That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper,
And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

⁶In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell safely;
Now this is His name by which He will be called:
THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

⁷"Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, "As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt," ⁸but, "As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them." And they shall dwell in their own land."

⁹ My heart within me is broken
Because of the prophets;
All my bones shake.
I am like a drunken man,
And like a man whom wine has overcome,
Because of the LORD,
And because of His holy words.

¹⁰For the land is full of adulterers;
For because of a curse the land mourns.
The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up.
Their course of life is evil,
And their might is not right.

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- ¹¹"For both prophet and priest are profane;
Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says the LORD.
- ¹²"Therefore their way shall be to them
Like slippery ways;
In the darkness they shall be driven on
And fall in them;
For I will bring disaster on them,
The year of their punishment," says the LORD.
- ¹³"And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria:
They prophesied by Baal
And caused My people Israel to err.
- ¹⁴Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem:
They commit adultery and walk in lies;
They also strengthen the hands of evildoers,
So that no one turns back from his wickedness.
All of them are like Sodom to Me,
And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.
- ¹⁵"Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets:
"Behold, I will feed them with wormwood,
And make them drink the water of gall;
For from the prophets of Jerusalem
Profaneness has gone out into all the land."
- ¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts:
"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.
They make you worthless;
They speak a vision of their own heart,
Not from the mouth of the LORD.
- ¹⁷They continually say to those who despise Me,
"The LORD has said, "You shall have peace" ;
And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own
heart, they say,
"No evil shall come upon you."
- ¹⁸For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD,
And has perceived and heard His word?
Who has marked His word and heard it?
- ¹⁹Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury--
A violent whirlwind!
It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.
- ²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back
Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart.
In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.
- ²¹"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran.
I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
- ²²But if they had stood in My counsel,

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And had caused My people to hear My words,
Then they would have turned them from their evil way
And from the evil of their doings.

²³"Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD,
"And not a God afar off?"

²⁴"Can anyone hide himself in secret places,
So I shall not see him?" says the LORD;

"Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

²⁵"I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'" ²⁶How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.

²⁸"The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream;
And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully.
What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.

²⁹"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD,

"And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

³⁰"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor." ³¹Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'" ³²Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD.

³³"So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the orade of the LORD?' you shall then say to them, 'What orade?' I will even forsake you," says the LORD. ³⁴"And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The orade of the LORD!' I will even punish that man and his house." ³⁵Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, "What has the LORD answered?" and, "What has the LORD spoken?" ³⁶And the orade of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his orade, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God. ³⁷Thus you shall say to the prophet, "What has the LORD answered you?" and, "What has the LORD spoken?" ³⁸But since you say, "The orade of the LORD!" therefore thus says the LORD: "Because you say this word, 'The orade of the LORD!' and I have sent to you, saying, 'Do not say, 'The orade of the LORD!'"' ³⁹therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence.

⁴⁰And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

Jeremiah 29

¹ Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive--to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²(This happened after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.) ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying,

⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

⁶Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters--that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

⁷And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. ⁸For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. ⁹For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD.

¹⁰For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

¹⁵Because you have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon"-- ¹⁶therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, concerning all the people who dwell in this city, and concerning your brethren who have not gone out with you into captivity-- ¹⁷thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad. ¹⁸And I will

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pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth--to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them, ¹⁹because they have not heeded My words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the LORD. ²⁰Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²¹Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes. ²²And because of them a curse shall be taken up by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon, saying, "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire"; ²³because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which I have not commanded them. Indeed I know, and am a witness, says the LORD.

²⁴You shall also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying, ²⁵Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, ²⁶"The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, so that there should be officers in the house of the LORD over every man who is demented and considers himself a prophet, that you should put him in prison and in the stocks. ²⁷Now therefore, why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who makes himself a prophet to you? ²⁸For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit."

²⁹Now Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. ³⁰Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: ³¹Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie-- ³²therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family: he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My people, says the LORD, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD.

Ezekiel 6

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ²"Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, ³and say, "O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus

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says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: "Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. ⁴Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. ⁵And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. ⁶In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. ⁷The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

⁸"Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries. ⁹Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. ¹⁰And they shall know that I am the LORD; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them."

¹¹"Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, "Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. ¹²He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them. ¹³Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols. ¹⁴So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." ""

Ezekiel 16

¹ Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²"Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, ³and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. ⁴As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. ⁵No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were

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thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.

⁶"And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, "Live!" Yes, I said to you in your blood, "Live!" ⁷I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare.

⁸"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

⁹"Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. ¹⁰I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. ¹¹I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. ¹²And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

¹³Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. ¹⁴Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

¹⁵"But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. ¹⁶You took some of your garments and adorned multicolored high places for yourself, and played the harlot on them. Such things should not happen, nor be. ¹⁷You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them.

¹⁸You took your embroidered garments and covered them, and you set My oil and My incense before them. ¹⁹Also My food which I gave you-- the pastry of fine flour, oil, and honey which I fed you--you set it before them as sweet incense; and so it was," says the Lord GOD.

²⁰"Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, ²¹that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire?

²²And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood.

²³"Then it was so, after all your wickedness-- "Woe, woe to you!" says the Lord GOD-- ²⁴that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. ²⁵You built your high places at

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the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry. ²⁶You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.

²⁷"Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior.

²⁸You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. ²⁹Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied.

³⁰"How degenerate is your heart!" says the Lord GOD, "seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen harlot.

³¹ "You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment. ³²You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband. ³³Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry. ³⁴You are the opposite of other women in your harlotry, because no one solicited you to be a harlot. In that you gave payment but no payment was given you, therefore you are the opposite."

³⁵ "Now then, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD! ³⁶Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your filthiness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your harlotry with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children which you gave to them, ³⁷surely, therefore, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved, and all those you hated; I will gather them from all around against you and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. ³⁸And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy. ³⁹I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.

⁴⁰"They shall also bring up an assembly against you, and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords. ⁴¹They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will make you cease playing the harlot, and you shall no longer hire lovers. ⁴²So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more. ⁴³Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but agitated Me with all these things, surely I will also

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recompense your deeds on your own head," says the Lord GOD. "And you shall not commit lewdness in addition to all your abominations.

⁴⁴ "Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: "Like mother, like daughter!" ⁴⁵You are your mother's daughter, loathing husband and children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children; your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

⁴⁶"Your elder sister is Samaria, who dwells with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who dwells to the south of you, is Sodom and her daughters. ⁴⁷You did not walk in their ways nor act according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, you became more corrupt than they in all your ways.

⁴⁸"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. ⁴⁹Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. ⁵⁰And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

⁵¹"Samaria did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified your sisters by all the abominations which you have done. ⁵²You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be disgraced also, and bear your own shame, because you justified your sisters.

⁵³"When I bring back their captives, the captives of Sodom and her daughters, and the captives of Samaria and her daughters, then I will also bring back the captives of your captivity among them, ⁵⁴that you may bear your own shame and be disgraced by all that you did when you comforted them. ⁵⁵When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters return to their former state, then you and your daughters will return to your former state. ⁵⁶For your sister Sodom was not a byword in your mouth in the days of your pride, ⁵⁷before your wickedness was uncovered. It was like the time of the reproach of the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and of the daughters of the Philistines, who despise you everywhere. ⁵⁸You have paid for your lewdness and your abominations," says the LORD. ⁵⁹For thus says the Lord GOD: "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

⁶⁰ "Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

⁶¹Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you

receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. ⁶²And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, ⁶³that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel 23

¹ The word of the LORD came again to me, saying:

²"Son of man, there were two women,
The daughters of one mother.

³They committed harlotry in Egypt,
They committed harlotry in their youth;
Their breasts were there embraced,
Their virgin bosom was there pressed.

⁴Their names: Oholah the elder and Oholibah her sister;
They were Mine,
And they bore sons and daughters.
As for their names,
Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholibah.

⁵ "Oholah played the harlot even though she was Mine;
And she lusted for her lovers, the neighboring Assyrians,

⁶Who were clothed in purple,
Captains and rulers,
All of them desirable young men,
Horsemen riding on horses.

⁷Thus she committed her harlotry with them,
All of them choice men of Assyria;
And with all for whom she lusted,
With all their idols, she defiled herself.

⁸She has never given up her harlotry brought from Egypt,
For in her youth they had lain with her,
Pressed her virgin bosom,
And poured out their immorality upon her.

⁹"Therefore I have delivered her
Into the hand of her lovers,
Into the hand of the Assyrians,
For whom she lusted.

¹⁰They uncovered her nakedness,
Took away her sons and daughters,
And slew her with the sword;
She became a byword among women,
For they had executed judgment on her.

¹¹ "Now although her sister Oholibah saw this, she became more

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corrupt in her lust than she, and in her harlotry more corrupt than her sister' s harlotry.

¹²"She lusted for the neighboring Assyrians,
Captains and rulers,
Clothed most gorgeously,
Horsemen riding on horses,
All of them desirable young men.

¹³Then I saw that she was defiled;
Both took the same way.

¹⁴But she increased her harlotry;
She looked at men portrayed on the wall,
Images of Chaldeans portrayed in vermillion,

¹⁵Girded with belts around their waists,
Flowing turbans on their heads,
All of them looking like captains,
In the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea,
The land of their nativity.

¹⁶As soon as her eyes saw them,
She lusted for them
And sent messengers to them in Chaldea.

¹⁷"Then the Babylonians came to her, into the bed of love,
And they defiled her with their immorality;
So she was defiled by them, and alienated herself from them.

¹⁸She revealed her harlotry and uncovered her nakedness.
Then I alienated Myself from her,
As I had alienated Myself from her sister.

¹⁹"Yet she multiplied her harlotry
In calling to remembrance the days of her youth,
When she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

²⁰For she lusted for her paramours,
Whose flesh is like the flesh of donkeys,
And whose issue is like the issue of horses.

²¹Thus you called to remembrance the lewdness of your youth,
When the Egyptians pressed your bosom
Because of your youthful breasts.

²² "Therefore, Oholibah, thus says the Lord GOD:
"Behold, I will stir up your lovers against you,
From whom you have alienated yourself,
And I will bring them against you from every side:

²³The Babylonians,
All the Chaldeans,
Pekod, Shoa, Koa,
All the Assyrians with them,
All of them desirable young men,

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Governors and rulers,
Captains and men of renown,
All of them riding on horses.
²⁴And they shall come against you
With chariots, wagons, and war-horses,
With a horde of people.
They shall array against you
Buckler, shield, and helmet all around.
"I will delegate judgment to them,
And they shall judge you according to their judgments.

²⁵I will set My jealousy against you,
And they shall deal furiously with you;
They shall remove your nose and your ears,
And your remnant shall fall by the sword;
They shall take your sons and your daughters,
And your remnant shall be devoured by fire.

²⁶They shall also strip you of your clothes
And take away your beautiful jewelry.

²⁷"Thus I will make you cease your lewdness and your harlotry
Brought from the land of Egypt,
So that you will not lift your eyes to them,
Nor remember Egypt anymore.'

²⁸"For thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will deliver you into the hand of those you hate, into the hand of those from whom you alienated yourself. ²⁹They will deal hatefully with you, take away all you have worked for, and leave you naked and bare. The nakedness of your harlotry shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your harlotry. ³⁰I will do these things to you because you have gone as a harlot after the Gentiles, because you have become defiled by their idols. ³¹You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will put her cup in your hand.'

³²"Thus says the Lord GOD:

"You shall drink of your sister' s cup,
The deep and wide one;
You shall be laughed to scorn
And held in derision;
It contains much.

³³You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow,
The cup of horror and desolation,
The cup of your sister Samaria.

³⁴You shall drink and drain it,
You shall break its shards,
And tear at your own breasts;
For I have spoken,'

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Says the Lord GOD.

³⁵"Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

"Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back,
Therefore you shall bear the penalty
Of your lewdness and your harlotry."

³⁶ The LORD also said to me: "Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominations. ³⁷For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them. ³⁸Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths. ³⁹For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house.

⁴⁰"Furthermore you sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and there they came. And you washed yourself for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments.

⁴¹You sat on a stately couch, with a table prepared before it, on which you had set My incense and My oil. ⁴²The sound of a carefree multitude was with her, and Sabeans were brought from the wilderness with men of the common sort, who put bracelets on their wrists and beautiful crowns on their heads. ⁴³Then I said concerning her who had grown old in adulteries, "Will they commit harlotry with her now, and she with them?" ⁴⁴Yet they went in to her, as men go in to a woman who plays the harlot; thus they went in to Oholah and Oholibah, the lewd women. ⁴⁵But righteous men will judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women who shed blood, because they are adulteresses, and blood is on their hands.

⁴⁶"For thus says the Lord GOD: "Bring up an assembly against them, give them up to trouble and plunder. ⁴⁷The assembly shall stone them with stones and execute them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn their houses with fire. ⁴⁸Thus I will cause lewdness to cease from the land, that all women may be taught not to practice your lewdness. ⁴⁹They shall repay you for your lewdness, and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD."

Hosea 2

¹ Say to your brethren, "My people,"

And to your sisters, "Mercy is shown."

² "Bring charges against your mother, bring charges;

For she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband!

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Let her put away her harlotries from her sight,
And her adulteries from between her breasts;

³Lest I strip her naked
And expose her, as in the day she was born,
And make her like a wilderness,
And set her like a dry land,
And slay her with thirst.

⁴"I will not have mercy on her children,
For they are the children of harlotry.

⁵For their mother has played the harlot;
She who conceived them has behaved shamefully.
For she said, "I will go after my lovers,
Who give me my bread and my water,
My wool and my linen,
My oil and my drink."

⁶Therefore, behold,
I will hedge up your way with thorns,
And wall her in,
So that she cannot find her paths.

⁷She will chase her lovers,
But not overtake them;
Yes, she will seek them, but not find them.
Then she will say,
"I will go and return to my first husband,
For then it was better for me than now."

⁸For she did not know
That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil,
And multiplied her silver and gold--
Which they prepared for Baal.

⁹Therefore I will return and take away
My grain in its time
And My new wine in its season,
And will take back My wool and My linen,
Given to cover her nakedness.

¹⁰Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers,
And no one shall deliver her from My hand.

¹¹I will also cause all her mirth to cease,
Her feast days,
Her New Moons,
Her Sabbaths--
All her appointed feasts.

¹²"And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees,
Of which she has said,

"These are my wages that my lovers have given me."

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So I will make them a forest,
And the beasts of the field shall eat them.
¹³I will punish her
For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense.
She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry,
And went after her lovers;
But Me she forgot," says the LORD.
¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
Will bring her into the wilderness,
And speak comfort to her.
¹⁵I will give her her vineyards from there,
And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope;
She shall sing there,
As in the days of her youth,
As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.
¹⁶" And it shall be, in that day,"
Says the LORD,
"That you will call Me "My Husband,"
And no longer call Me "My Master,"
¹⁷For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals,
And they shall be remembered by their name no more.
¹⁸In that day I will make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
With the birds of the air,
And with the creeping things of the ground.
Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth,
To make them lie down safely.
¹⁹"I will betroth you to Me forever;
Yes, I will betroth you to Me
In righteousness and justice,
In lovingkindness and mercy;
²⁰I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness,
And you shall know the LORD.
²¹"It shall come to pass in that day
That I will answer," says the LORD;
"I will answer the heavens,
And they shall answer the earth.
²²The earth shall answer
With grain,
With new wine,
And with oil;
They shall answer Jezreel.
²³Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth,
And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy;

"Spiritual Adultery" Scripture list
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All verses NKJV

Then I will say to those who were not My people,
"You are My people!"
And they shall say, "You are my God!"

Hosea 3

¹ Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."

² So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. ³ And I said to her, "You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man--so, too, will I be toward you."

⁴ For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim.

⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

Hosea 4

¹ Hear the word of the LORD,
You children of Israel,
For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land:
"There is no truth or mercy
Or knowledge of God in the land.

² By swearing and lying,
Killing and stealing and committing adultery,
They break all restraint,
With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land will mourn;
And everyone who dwells there will waste away
With the beasts of the field
And the birds of the air;
Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

⁴ "Now let no man contend, or rebuke another;
For your people are like those who contend with the priest.

⁵ Therefore you shall stumble in the day;
The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night;
And I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;
Because you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

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- ⁷"The more they increased,
The more they sinned against Me;
I will change their glory into shame.
- ⁸They eat up the sin of My people;
They set their heart on their iniquity.
- ⁹And it shall be: like people, like priest.
So I will punish them for their ways,
And reward them for their deeds.
- ¹⁰For they shall eat, but not have enough;
They shall commit harlotry, but not increase;
Because they have ceased obeying the LORD.
- ¹¹ "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.
- ¹²My people ask counsel from their wooden idols,
And their staff informs them.
For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray,
And they have played the harlot against their God.
- ¹³They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops,
And burn incense on the hills,
Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths,
Because their shade is good.
Therefore your daughters commit harlotry,
And your brides commit adultery.
- ¹⁴"I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry,
Nor your brides when they commit adultery;
For the men themselves go apart with harlots,
And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot.
Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.
- ¹⁵"Though you, Israel, play the harlot,
Let not Judah offend.
Do not come up to Gilgal,
Nor go up to Beth Aven,
Nor swear an oath, saying, "As the LORD lives"--
- ¹⁶"For Israel is stubborn
Like a stubborn calf;
Now the LORD will let them forage
Like a lamb in open country.
- ¹⁷"Ephraim is joined to idols,
Let him alone.
- ¹⁸Their drink is rebellion,
They commit harlotry continually.
Her rulers dearly love dishonor.
- ¹⁹The wind has wrapped her up in its wings,
And they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Hosea 7

- ¹ "When I would have healed Israel,
Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered,
And the wickedness of Samaria.
For they have committed fraud;
A thief comes in;
A band of robbers takes spoil outside.
- ²They do not consider in their hearts
That I remember all their wickedness;
Now their own deeds have surrounded them;
They are before My face.
- ³They make a king glad with their wickedness,
And princes with their lies.
- ⁴"They are all adulterers.
Like an oven heated by a baker--
He ceases stirring the fire after kneading the dough,
Until it is leavened.
- ⁵In the day of our king
Princes have made him sick, inflamed with wine;
He stretched out his hand with scoffers.
- ⁶They prepare their heart like an oven,
While they lie in wait;
Their baker sleeps all night;
In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.
- ⁷They are all hot, like an oven,
And have devoured their judges;
All their kings have fallen.
None among them calls upon Me.
- ⁸"Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples;
Ephraim is a cake unturned.
- ⁹Aliens have devoured his strength,
But he does not know it;
Yes, gray hairs are here and there on him,
Yet he does not know it.
- ¹⁰And the pride of Israel testifies to his face,
But they do not return to the LORD their God,
Nor seek Him for all this.
- ¹¹ "Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense--
They call to Egypt,
They go to Assyria.
- ¹²Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them;
I will bring them down like birds of the air;
I will chastise them
According to what their congregation has heard.

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¹³" Woe to them, for they have fled from Me!
Destruction to them,
Because they have transgressed against Me!
Though I redeemed them,
Yet they have spoken lies against Me.
¹⁴They did not cry out to Me with their heart
When they wailed upon their beds.
"They assemble together for grain and new wine,
They rebel against Me;
¹⁵Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms,
Yet they devise evil against Me;
¹⁶They return, but not to the Most High;
They are like a treacherous bow.
Their princes shall fall by the sword
For the cursings of their tongue.
This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Malachi 3

¹ " Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,"
Says the LORD of hosts.
²" But who can endure the day of His coming?
And who can stand when He appears?
For He is like a refiner' s fire
And like launderers' soap.
³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the LORD
An offering in righteousness.
⁴" Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
Will be pleasant to the LORD,
As in the days of old,
As in former years.
⁵And I will come near you for judgment;
I will be a swift witness
Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers,
Against perjurers,

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Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,

And against those who turn away an alien--
Because they do not fear Me,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I am the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

⁷Yet from the days of your fathers
You have gone away from My ordinances
And have not kept them.

Return to Me, and I will return to you,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

"But you said,

"In what way shall we return?"

⁸ "Will a man rob God?

Yet you have robbed Me!

But you say,

"In what way have we robbed You?"

In tithes and offerings.

⁹You are cursed with a curse,

For you have robbed Me,

Even this whole nation.

¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,

That there may be food in My house,

And try Me now in this,"

Says the LORD of hosts,

"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven

And pour out for you such blessing

That there will not be room enough to receive it.

¹¹"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,

So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,

Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,"

Says the LORD of hosts;

¹²And all nations will call you blessed,

For you will be a delightful land,"

Says the LORD of hosts.

¹³ "Your words have been harsh against Me,"

Says the LORD,

"Yet you say,

"What have we spoken against You?"

¹⁴You have said,

"It is useless to serve God;

What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance,

And that we have walked as mourners

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Before the LORD of hosts?

¹⁵So now we call the proud blessed,
For those who do wickedness are raised up;
They even tempt God and go free."

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another,
And the LORD listened and heard them;
So a book of remembrance was written before Him
For those who fear the LORD
And who meditate on His name.

¹⁷"They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts,
"On the day that I make them My jewels.
And I will spare them
As a man spares his own son who serves him."

¹⁸Then you shall again discern
Between the righteous and the wicked,
Between one who serves God
And one who does not serve Him.