

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown.

“But we have forgotten God.”

“We have forgotten the gracious hand
which preserved us in peace and multiplied
and enriched and strengthened us,
and we have vainly imagined,
in the deceitfulness of our hearts,
that all these blessings were produced
by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”

“Intoxicated with unbroken success,
we have become too self-sufficient to feel
the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace,
too proud to pray to the God that made us.”

~Abraham Lincoln

Part 1: Israel's Origins (vv. 1-5)

Part 2: Israel's Blessings (vv. 6-14)

Part 3: Israel's Unfaithfulness (vv. 15-22)

Part 4: Israel's Punishment (vv. 44-52)

Part 5: Israel's Restoration (vv. 59-63)

Ezekiel 16:1-3

Again the word of the LORD came to me:

“Son of man, make known to Jerusalem
her abominations, and say,
Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem:

“Your origin and your birth
are of the land of the Canaanites;
your father was an Amorite
and your mother a Hittite.”

Ezekiel 16:4-5

“And as for your birth, on the day you were born
your cord was not cut,
nor were you washed with water to cleanse you,
nor rubbed with salt,
nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

“No eye pitied you,
to do any of these things to you
out of compassion for you,
but you were cast out on the open field,
for you were abhorred,
on the day that you were born.”

1 Corinthians 1:26

For consider your calling, brothers:
not many of you were wise
according to worldly standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.

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Ezekiel 16:6-7

“And when I passed by you
and saw you wallowing in your blood,
I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’

“I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’

“I made you flourish like a plant of the field.
And you grew up and became tall
and arrived at full adornment...”

Ezekiel 16:8

“When I passed by you again and saw you,
behold, you were at the age for love,
and I spread the corner of my garment over you
and covered your nakedness.

“I made my vow to you
and entered into a covenant with you,
declares the Lord GOD,
and you became mine.”

Ezekiel 16:9-10

“Then I bathed you with water
and washed off your blood from you
and anointed you with oil.

“I clothed you also with embroidered cloth
and shod you with fine leather.
I wrapped you in fine linen
and covered you with silk.”

Ezekiel 16:11-13a

“And I adorned you with ornaments
and put bracelets on your wrists
and a chain on your neck.

And I put a ring on your nose
and earrings in your ears
and a beautiful crown on your head.

“Thus you were adorned with gold and silver,
and your clothing was of fine linen
and silk and embroidered cloth.
You ate fine flour and honey and oil.”

Ezekiel 16:13b-14

“You grew exceedingly beautiful
and advanced to royalty.

And your renown went forth among the nations
because of your beauty, for it was perfect
through the splendor that I had bestowed on you,
declares the Lord GOD.”

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Ezekiel 16:15-16

“But you trusted in your beauty
and played the whore because of your renown
and lavished your whorings on any passerby;
your beauty became his.

“You took some of your garments
and made for yourself colorful shrines,
and on them played the whore.

“The like has never been,
nor ever shall be.”

Ezekiel 16:17-19

“You also took your beautiful jewels
of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you,
and made for yourself images of men,
and with them played the whore.

And you took your embroidered garments
to cover them, and set my oil
and my incense before them.

Also my bread that I gave you –
I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey –
you set before them for a pleasing aroma;
and so it was, declares the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 16:20-22

“And you took your sons and your daughters,
whom you had borne to me,
and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured.
Were your whorings so small a matter
that you slaughtered my children
and delivered them up as an offering
by fire to them?”

“And in all your abominations and your whorings
you did not remember the days of your youth,
when you were naked and bare,
wallowing in your blood...”

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Ezekiel 16:44-45

“Behold, everyone who uses proverbs
will use this proverb about you:
‘Like mother, like daughter.’

“You are the daughter of your mother,
who loathed her husband and her children;
and you are the sister of your sisters,
who loathed their husbands and their children.

“Your mother was a Hittite
and your father an Amorite.”

Ezekiel 16:46-47

“And your elder sister is Samaria,
who lived with her daughters
to the north of you;
and your younger sister,
who lived to the south of you,
is Sodom with her daughters.

“Not only did you walk in their ways
and do according to their abominations;
within a very little time
you were more corrupt
than they in all your ways.”

Ezekiel 16:48-50

“As I live, declares the Lord GOD,
your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done
as you and your daughters have done.

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom:
she and her daughters had pride,
excess of food, and prosperous ease,
but did not aid the poor and needy.

They were haughty
and did an abomination before me.
So I removed them, when I saw it.”

Ezekiel 16:51-52

“Samaria has not committed half your sins.
You have committed more abominations than they,
and have made your sisters appear righteous
by all the abominations that you have committed.

“Bear your disgrace, you also,
for you have intervened on behalf of your sisters.

Because of your sins in which
you acted more abominably than they,
they are more in the right than you.

So be ashamed, you also, and bear your disgrace,
for you have made your sisters appear righteous...”

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Ezekiel 16:59-60

“For thus says the Lord GOD:
I will deal with you as you have done,
you who have despised the oath
in breaking the covenant,
yet I will remember my covenant with you
in the days of your youth,
and I will establish for you
an everlasting covenant.

Ezekiel 16:61

“Then you will remember your ways
and be ashamed when you take your sisters,
both your elder and your younger,
and I give them to you as daughters,
but not on account of the covenant with you.”

Ezekiel 16:62-63

“I will establish my covenant with you,
and you shall know that I am the LORD,
that you may remember and be confounded,
and never open your mouth again
because of your shame,
when I atone for you
for all that you have done,
declares the Lord GOD.”

“I am not what I ought to be,
I am not what I want to be,
I am not what I hope to be
in another world.

“But still: I am not
what I once used to be,
and by the grace of God
I am what I am.”

~John Newton

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers:
not many of you were wise
according to worldly standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

But God chose what is foolish in the world
to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world,
even things that are not,
to bring to nothing things that are,
so that no human being might boast
in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
whom God made
our wisdom and our righteousness
and sanctification and redemption.

Therefore, as it is written,
“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Verse 2

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

Verse 3

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all