

Twice Rescued!
Recalling the Boundless Grace of God
(16:1–14)
Veritas Adult Community
September 29, 2019

The Text

^{16:1}The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, inform Jerusalem of her abominations. ³Say, “Thus has the Lord YHWH declared to Jerusalem: Your origin and birth were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was Amorite, and your mother Hittite. ⁴Speaking of your birth, on the day you were born, your navel-cord was not cut; you were not washed smooth with water; you were not rubbed down with salt; nor were you wrapped in swaddling clothes. ⁵No one showed pity toward you by doing any of these for you to care for you. Instead you were flung out on the open field, rejected, on the day you were born.

⁶I happened to pass by you, and noticed you flailing about in your blood. I declared to you, “In your blood, live!” I declared to you, “In your blood, live!” ⁷I made you flourish like a plant of the field. You grew up and matured, and you entered completely nude; your breasts were well formed, and your pubic hair had sprouted. But you were stark naked. ⁸When I passed by you, I noticed your time, the time for love-making had arrived. I spread my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I pledged myself to you and entered into a covenant with you—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—and you became mine.

⁹I bathed you with water and I rinsed your blood off you. I anointed you with oil. ¹⁰I clothed you with finely embroidered cloth and I provided you with sandals of luxury leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and I covered you with exquisite fabric. ¹¹I adorned you with jewelry, and I placed bracelets upon your wrists, and a chain on you neck. ¹²I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful tiara on your head.

¹³Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your garments were made of fine linen, exquisite fabric, and finely embroidered cloth. You dined on fine flour, honey and oil. You were extremely beautiful and reached the status of queen! ¹⁴Your fame spread abroad to the nations because of your beauty. Indeed, it was perfect on account of my splendor, with which I had endowed you. The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Introduction

A. Jerusalem's Lowly Origins: Her Desperate Need for Grace (vv. 3–5)

1. Jerusalem's roots were in the wrong place: the land of the Canaanite.
2. Jerusalem had the wrong parents:
3. Jerusalem's personal story began all wrong.

B. Jerusalem's Exaltation: YHWH's Amazing Demonstration of Grace (vv. 6–14)

1. Phase 1: YHWH's Rescue of the Infant from Certain Death (vv. 6–7).

You grew _____ and matured _____ and you entered completely nude.”
 “Your breasts were well formed, _____ and your [pubic] hair had sprouted, _____ and you were stark naked.”

2. Phase 2: YHWH's Marriage to This Young Woman (vv. 8–14).

- a. YHWH spread his garment over Jerusalem.
- b. YHWH formalizes the marriage (v. 8c).
- c. YHWH cleanses and anoints her (v. 9).
- d. YHWH clothes her in the finest of garments (v. 10).
- e. YHWH adorns her with the finest of jewelry.
- f. YHWH provides her with royal food.
- g. YHWH made her his queen!

Application

1. The destitute condition of Jerusalem in the opening paragraph (vv. 1–5) is a figure not only of Israel in its infancy, but of all humanity in its natural state.
- 2, Verses. 6–14 offer the most vivid picture of the grace of God in the entire Bible.
 - a. The source and motivation of divine love lie entirely in God himself.
 - b. The reach of divine love knows no limits.
 - c. The seriousness of divine love is expressed in the covenant relationship he establishes with those to whom he reaches out.
 - d. The power of divine love is displayed in its miraculous ability to transform a wretched and filthy person into the most beautiful trophy of grace,