

Ezekiel 16:10-19, 60

These passages are all about the Tabernacle.

Start earlier, in verse 8

Ezekiel 16:8 - "Now when I passed by you, and looked on you, behold, your time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over you, and covered your nakedness: yes, I swore to you, and entered into a covenant with you, said the Lord GOD, and you became mine."

"Spread my skirt over you" - skirt is "*kanaph*" - same as in the discussion of the term in *Psalms 61*, betrothal, etc.

This is describing God taking Israel as a slave people, rescuing them, making a covenant with them on Sinai and clothing them with the Tabernacle and the High Priestly garments.

In **verse 9**, the washings and purifications of the law are probably intended to be signified by these metaphorical expressions; and the priesthood by the anointing with oil.

Ezekiel 16:10 - "I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk."

The description here is of the Tabernacle, even using specific materials like "badger's skins" which formed the blue outer covering of the tent.

"brodered work" - needlework of various colors. Similar to the description of the cherubim embroidered with cunning work into the Tabernacle curtains and veils, and the High Priestly garments.

Exodus 26:36 - "And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework."

"fine linen" - the material that made up the white curtains of the Tabernacle, as well as the surrounding courtyard curtains, and the garment of the High Priest on Yom Kippur.

"Covered you with silk" - Not silk, which didn't reach the Middle East until Roman times, but some other fine material.

Targum: "and I separated from you the priests, that they might minister before me with linen mitres, and the high priest in garments of divers colours;"

Ezekiel 16:11-12 - "I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head."

"bracelets upon thine hands" - the Targum say this means the law, written on two tables of stone, and given by the hands of Moses. Obedience to the Law appears beautiful, as hands with bracelets on them, when they spring from love, are done in faith, and with a view to the glory of God.

"a chain on thy neck" - Targum: "and with the holiness of my great name I sanctified you;"

"jewel on thy forehead" - Targum: "and I put the ark of my covenant among you"

"earrings in thine ears" - Targum: "and the clouds of my glory overshadowed you"

"a beautiful crown upon thy head" - Targum: "and an angel, sent from before me, led at the head of you."

Crowns were commonly put upon the heads of persons newly married (**Song of Solomon 3:11**).

Revelation 12:1 - "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars"

Ezekiel 16:13 - "Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom."

The Targum interprets it of the tabernacle adorned with gold and silver, and linen curtains, of various dies and colors, as previously.

"fine flour, and honey and oil" - the Targum explains this is the manna with which the Lord fed the Israelites in the wilderness, and was good, like fine flour, and honey, and oil and had the taste of them all.

The accouterments of royalty and prosperity.

Ezekiel 16:14 - "And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD."

"The church's beauty lies in the righteousness of Christ imputed to her." - John Gill

BUT!

Ezekiel 16:15 - "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was."

Ezekiel 16:16 - "And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colors, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so."

They dressed their idols in the same kinds of fine clothing God had prepared for them. In other words, they attribute those aspects of the Tabernacle's service and God's mercy and care to their idols.

After 40 more verses of chastisement, the final upbeat verse of hope at the end of this haftarah reading:

Ezekiel 16:60 - "Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant."