

peace, and be no more angry. 43 Because thou hast forgotten the days of thy youth, and stirred up My indignation by all thy doings, behold, I will let the punishment of thy conduct rest on thy head, saith the Lord Jehovah. Thou wilt not be able to increase thy offences by any new deed of shame.

Jerusalem is, in fact, really a heathen city. Canaan may be called its father and mother; Samaria and Sodom its sisters. In its desperate ungodliness it has even transcended these guiltiest of cities, and must think of this when it suffers a fate as terrible as theirs.

44 Behold,¹ every proverb-monger will repeat this saying against thee: "As is the mother, so is the daughter!" 45 Thou art the true daughter of thy mother, who dishonoured her husband and her children: and thou art the true sister of thy sisters, who dishonoured their husbands and their children;² thy mother was a Hittite and thy father an Amorite.³ 46 Thy elder sister is Samaria, with her daughters, the towns of her territory, who dwell north from thee: thy younger sister, who lives south from thee, is Sodom and her daughters—the towns connected with her. 47 Yet thou hast not contented thyself with walking in their ways, nor in copying their abominations; that was too little for thee to do: thou hast shown thyself still more corrupt than they, in all thy ways! 48 As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, Sodom, thy sister, and her daughters, have not done as thou and thy daughters—the towns of Judah—have done! 49 Behold, the sin of thy sister Sodom was this—pride, through superabundance of the comforts of life, and the corrupting influence of undisturbed security, marked her and her daughters, and she did not help the poor and needy.⁴ 50 They were haughty, and committed abomination before Me; therefore I put them away, as thou hast seen.

51 Neither has SAMARIA⁵ committed half of thy sins. Thou hast

¹ Ezek. xvi. 44-50.

² The Canaanites and Samaria and Sodom alike turned from God and gave up their children as sacrifices to idols.

³ Jerusalem has shown itself to be in respect to religion a true child of the Canaanites.

⁴ Lit., "take hold of the hand of."

⁵ Ezek. xvi. 51-52.