

and hast hired them to come to thee from all parts, to commit wickedness with thee.¹ 34 Thou hast been the opposite of other women in thy sins; thou hast not been gone after, but thyself hast gone after thy lovers; thou hast given pay, not gotten it; thou art, indeed, different from others!

The husband, thus outraged beyond example, cannot, after all this, allow his faithless partner to escape the punishment she has deserved, but must insist, on many grounds, that the severest penalties be inflicted. Those with whom she had sinned are to be the instruments of her shameful and terrible sentence. She must be put to a disgraceful death, as the law demands.

35 Wherefore, O harlot,² hear the word of Jehovah. 36 Thus saith the Lord Jehovah, because thy sin was poured out, and thy shame revealed, by thy idolatries with the religions thou lovedst, and with all thy abominable disgusting gods, and by the blood of thy children which thou gavest to them; 37 Behold, therefore, I will gather all who have seduced thee from Me, thy God, and those whom thou hast sought to please, and all whom thou hast loved, with all, also, whom thou hast hated; I will gather them round thee, and disclose thy sin to them, that they may see all thy guilt. 38 And I will judge thee as women are judged who break wedlock and shed blood, and I will shed thy blood, in My fury and jealousy. 39 I will give thee, also, into their hand, and they will throw down thy canopies, and break down thy high places; they will strip thee of thy robes; take away thy fine ornaments, and leave thee, once more, naked and bare, as I found thee! 40 They will, further, bring up a multitude against thee, and stone thee with stones, and hew thee in pieces with their swords. 41 And they will burn thy houses with fire, and execute judgments in thee, before the eyes of many women,³ and I will make thee cease from playing the harlot, and thou shalt give no more unholy hire. 42 Thus will I cool My fury on thee, and My jealousy, which thou hast excited, will turn from thee, fully avenged, and I will have

¹ A thrust at their sending after foreign idolatries.

² Ezek. xvi. 35-43.

³ Other nations.