

through the fire, for these idols? 22 And, amidst all thy abominations and lewdness, thou hast forgotten the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and lay, cast out, in thy defilement.<sup>1</sup> 23 But after thou hadst committed all these iniquities, Woe, woe, to thee! saith the Lord Jehovah, 24 thou hast also built a canopy for an altar, and made a high place, in every street.<sup>2</sup> 25 At every meeting of the roads thou didst build thy high places, and didst dishonour to thy beauty, and disgraced thyself before all, and multiplied thy idolatry.

The introduction of Egyptian, Assyrian, and Babylonian heathenism was notorious.

26 Thou hast also<sup>3</sup> borrowed idolatry from the Egyptians, thy neighbours, foul in their heathenism,<sup>4</sup> and hast increased thy sins, to provoke Me to anger. 27 And, behold, in consequence of this, I stretched out My hand against thee, and diminished thy allotted food-supply, and gave thee over to the will of thy enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who, heathen as they are, blushed at thy sins. 28 Thou didst sin also with the Assyrians, still craving more idols; thou didst copy their heathenism also, and still, thou wast not satisfied. 29 Thou didst therefore, further, increase thy idolatry by adopting that of Chaldea—the land of traders, and, even then, thou wast not satisfied.

The prophet now breaks out into irony. Israel, he says, is different from others. They may act for reward; she has been urged only by love of her sins.

30 How loving is thy heart!<sup>5</sup> saith the Lord Jehovah, that thou doest all this, like a woman who is her own mistress, with none to check her! 31 that thou buildest the canopy for thy altars at every meeting of the roads, and raisest thy high place in every street, and yet wast not like a harlot, since thou hast not sought pay. 32 O thou adulterous wife, who takest up with strangers instead of keeping to thy husband! 33 A price is given to every harlot, but thou, instead, hast bestowed thy gifts on all thy lovers,

<sup>1</sup> Lit., "blood."

<sup>3</sup> Ezek. xvi. 26-29.

<sup>5</sup> Ezek. xvi. 30-34.

<sup>2</sup> Isa. lvii. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Lit., "great of flesh."