

finest bread, and honey, and oil; and thou wast indeed passing fair, and didst come to be a queen,<sup>1</sup> 14 and thy fame went forth among the nations, for thy beauty, which was perfect, through the splendour in which I had arrayed thee, saith the Lord Jehovah!

But, though thus divinely favoured, Israel had been unfaithful to God. Following the example of Hosea, Ezekiel represents this by the figure of conjugal infidelity. All alliances with heathen nations had been thus denounced by the earlier prophet, but the special guilt of Ezekiel's day was the idolatrous worship that had prevailed since the time of Manasseh, involving even human sacrifice. Interrupted, in a measure, during Josiah's reign, it had broken out afresh after his death.

15 But thou didst trust to thy beauty,<sup>2</sup> and thy fame seduced thee to lewdness, and thou gavest thyself up to uncleanness with every passer by, and becamest his!<sup>3</sup> 16 Thou didst take thy robes and made many-coloured Asherah tents with them, and committedst impurity under them; a thing that should never have happened.<sup>4</sup>

17 Thou didst also take thy ornaments, of My gold and silver that I had given thee, and making them into images of men,<sup>5</sup> committedst impurity with these. 18 And thou tookedst thy many-coloured robes and arrayed the idols in them, and didst set My oil and incense before them. 19 Thou didst, further, set before them, for a sweet savour, My bread that I had given thee;<sup>6</sup> fine flour, and oil, and honey with which I fed thee, saith the Lord Jehovah!

20 Still worse,<sup>7</sup> thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hadst borne to Me, and didst offer them to thy idols, to be destroyed in their honour. Were thy other sins so small 21 that thou shouldst also slay My sons, and give them up to pass

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

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. xvi. 15-19.

<sup>3</sup> Thou didst coquette with every form of idolatry.

<sup>4</sup> Text apparently corrupt. Ewald translates the clause, "O shame and disgrace!"

<sup>5</sup> The idols were of human shape, for the most part.

<sup>6</sup> Lev. xxi. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Ezek. xvi. 20-25.