

58 But now<sup>1</sup> thou must bear the punishment of thy lewdness and of thine abominations, saith Jehovah! 59 For thus saith the Lord Jehovah, I will do with thee as thou hast done to Me. Because thou hast despised the solemn oath taken by thee, breaking the covenant thou hadst made with Me:<sup>2</sup> I, now, hold My covenant made with thee as broken!

But God will not cast off His people for ever. He will hereafter make a new, everlasting covenant with them. Jerusalem shall once more be the head of the new theocracy, into which Sodom and Samaria will be received; but this glorious restoration will be due solely to the sovereign favour of God, and thus, as bounty to the undeserving, will call forth humiliation at the remembrance of the guilty past.

60 Yet I will hereafter<sup>3</sup> remember My old covenant with thee, in the days of thy youth, and I will establish with thee an everlasting covenant. 61 Then wilt thou think of thy former ways and be ashamed, when thou takest to thee thy sisters—the elder and the younger,<sup>4</sup> whom I will give thee for daughters, though thou hast no claim to them by thy covenant.<sup>5</sup> 62 And I will establish My covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am Jehovah; 63 that thou mayest ponder, and be humiliated, and never more open thy mouth, because of thy shame, when I forgive thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord Jehovah!

Another utterance of Ezekiel, of this time, returns to the special and crowning sin, which was bringing down the last calamities on Judah—the faithlessness of Zede-

Syrian kingdom of Chaldea (as it might be called) was against it, the Philistines had long been crushed. Eichhorn thinks it alludes to the oppression of Assyria, which at the time held Philistia also. But Smend's idea seems best. The Philistines were still very troublesome in the time of the distinctively Syrian war, before the fall of Samaria.

<sup>1</sup> Ezek. xvi. 58, 59.

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. xvi. 8.

<sup>3</sup> Sodom and Samaria.

<sup>4</sup> Ezek. xvi. 60-63.

<sup>5</sup> Or, "though they be not of the covenant."