

The Book of Ezekiel

The bride's family

- ▶ In Chapter 16, the very common comparison between idolatry and adultery is introduced, linking God's people with a faithless bride
- ▶ However, God begins long before the bride was of marrying age, starting with the heritage of the bride's parents, who both were tainted by other cultures' gods
- ▶ The Amorites and Hittites were known for being depraved, so their child inherits those traits. Which spiritual traits or challenges do you think people in our land might be predisposed to have? How might they be a disadvantage?



A passerby

- ▶ Instead of receiving proper care after her birth, the baby is left to be cold, dirty, and neglected out in the open, while hoping for a miracle to save herself
- ▶ Then, God is depicted as a passerby, who sees or hears the child and dispenses not only physical life to her, but also spiritual life
- ▶ Many in our day and age are left to their own devices. When might you see this at all points of life? How can being left exposed and vulnerable affect a person? How does God act as a passerby for us?



Almost there...

- ▶ Once the child is taken inside and given a good life, she begins to grow stronger and more mature with time, rather than remaining weak and helpless
- ▶ Even at this point though, Israel is just one among many strong nations and there is something missing that leaves the feeling of nakedness
- ▶ In which ways might a country be strong or mature that they might not attribute to God? In which ways could there still be something missing, even if they have all these things?



Covered

- ▶ God passes by again and decides to make Israel complete by covering her with the corner of his garment, another way of saying He marries her
- ▶ The vow and covenant that she enters into makes her not only satisfactory, but a chosen nation, protected and blessed by the only true God as long as she remains
- ▶ How does being a believer in Christ elevate our lives? What are some common misconceptions about what being a Christian does?

