

**Idol Talk: Identifying Our God-Substitutes**  
Part 3 – Overview of Ezekiel  
Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; May 19, 2019

**Trust and Love: A Vision for LIFE**

- Glorify and Enjoy God
- Trust: Rest in Jesus
- Trust: Hope in God
- Love: Submit to God's Word
- Love: Submit to God's Will

**Trust and Love: Man is an Idol Worshiper**

- God is the Supreme Good.
- Man is an idol worshiper.**
- Jesus is the double cure.
- Faith is trust in the promises.
- Love is the obedience of faith.
- God is sovereign over all.
- Jesus is a willing Savior for all.
  
- Seek God for LIFE.**
- Serve others for their good.
- Submit gladly to authority.
- Sacrifice in the exercise of freedom.
- Speak the truth in love.
- Suffer to the glory of God.
- Show grace to the ill-deserving.

**What is idolatry?**

- Idolatry is the worship of a false god.**

It is worshiping something other than the true God.

- Idolatry is misplaced hope.**

It is placing my ultimate hope in someone or something (other than God) for the help I need and the happiness I long for, so that it shapes my decisions and my life.

## **Ezekiel Part 2 (The Bible Project Video)**

- Ezekiel means ‘God strengthens’; a married prophet of the priestly class who lived in Babylon with the Judean exiles and prophesied from 593 to 571 BC.
- This book is a collection of writings without an overarching storyline but it follows the general pattern of movement from judgment to future blessing on God’s faithful people.
- The book addresses real historical events which consistently includes prophetic, poetic, apocalyptic (end time) visionary communication.
- Ezekiel’s prophetic communication involved much ‘street theater’ as he pictured the message. (e.g., Ezek. 4:1–5:17; 12:3–6; 24:16–18; 37:16–17)
- Ezekiel is a turning point in Biblical prophecy because (1) it bridges the time before the final exile with the time after the final exile; (2) it plays a role in shaping apocalyptic literature.
- The themes of Ezekiel revolve around the holiness of God and His commitment to His name, the unfaithfulness of the people, God’s judgment and the hope of a new heart.

## **Overview of Ezekiel (Idolatry, Consequences and Hope)**

### **1. Inaugural Vision (Ezek. 1:1–3:27)**

- The throne of the Lord approaches (Ezek. 1:4–28)

### **2. Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah (Ezek. 4:1–24:27)**

- God against Jerusalem (Ezek. 4:1–5:17)
- Ezekiel’s temple vision (Ezek. 8:1–11:25)
- The fire and the glory (Ezek. 10:1–22)
- The glory of the Lord departs (Ezek. 11:22–25)
- Anticipating exile (Ezek. 12:1–28)
- False inquirers (Ezek. 14:1–11)
- The useless vine (Ezek. 15:1–8)
- The faithless bride (Ezek. 16:1–63)
- Two sisters (Ezek. 23:1–49)
- No mourning for Ezekiel’s wife (Ezek. 24:15–24)

### **3. Oracles against Foreign Nations (Ezek. 25:1–32:32)**

- Against Tyre’s king (Ezek. 28:1–19)
- Against Pharaoh (Ezek. 29:1–16)

### **4. After the Fall of Jerusalem (Ezek. 33:1–39:29)**

- The fall of Jerusalem (Ezek. 33:21–22)
- Divine intervention: a new spirit (Ezek. 36:22–32)
- The vision of dry bones (Ezek. 37:1–14)

- Gog of Magog (Ezek. 38:1–39:29)

## 5. Vision of Restoration (Ezek. 40:1–48:35)

- Vision of the new temple (Ezek. 40:1–42:20)
- The return of God’s glory (Ezek. 43:1–5)
- The river flowing from the temple (Ezek. 46:19–47:12)
- Dividing the land: allotment and access (Ezek. 47:13–48:35) – ESV Study Bible

### Idol Talk in Ezekiel

- **Idolatry produces evil actions.**

Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “You eat *meat* with the blood *in it*, **lift up your eyes to your idols as you shed blood**. Should you then possess the land? (33:25)

Therefore I poured out My wrath on them **for the blood which they had shed on the land**, because they had **defiled it with their idols**. (36:18)

You rely on your sword, **you commit abominations** and each of you defiles his neighbor’s wife. Should you then possess the land?” (33:26)

Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I make the land a desolation and a waste **because of all their abominations** which they have committed.” (33:29)

by setting their threshold by My threshold and their door post beside My door post, with *only* the wall between Me and them. And they have **defiled My holy name by their abominations** which they have committed. So I have consumed them in My anger. (43:8)

You shall say to the rebellious ones, to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “**Enough of all your abominations**, O house of Israel, (44:6)

when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, *even* My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the blood; for they made My covenant void—*this* in addition to **all your abominations**. (44:7)

And they shall not come near to Me to serve as a priest to Me, nor come near to any of My holy things, to the things that are most holy; but they will **bear their shame and their abominations** which they have committed. (44:13)

- **Idolatry is the basic sin of all.**

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols**. (36:25)

They will **no longer defile themselves with their idols**, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And **they will be My people, and I will be their God.** (37:23)

**Idolatry is forsaking the true God.**

But the Levites who went far from Me when Israel went astray, **who went astray from Me after their idols**, shall bear the punishment for their iniquity. (44:10)

**Idolatry is what God brings His wrath upon men.**

Because they **ministered to them before their idols** and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have sworn against them,” declares the Lord God, “that they shall **bear *the punishment for their iniquity.*** (44:12)

**Idolatry and what it produces should bring us to a proper self-loathing.**

Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and **you will loathe yourselves** in your own sight for your iniquities and your **abominations.** (36:31)

**Idolatry is harlotry.**

He said to me, “Son of man, *this is* the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again **defile My holy name**, neither they nor their kings, **by their harlotry** and by the corpses of their kings when they die, (43:7)

Now **let them put away their harlotry** and the corpses of their kings far from Me; and I will dwell among them forever. (43:9)

### **What Can Be an Idol?**

- Any aspect of creation
- Any aspect of life
- Any ‘thing’
- Any ‘time’
- Any ‘goal’
- Any circumstance
- Any person (except the true God)

### **Saving Faith and Idols**

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. – Ezekiel 36:25

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, - 1 Thessalonians 1:9