

**SERMON:**

**Ezekiel 8-11**

**God's Message:**

**I Will Not Dwell with Idolaters**

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Ezekiel calls us to remember we are exiles and as exiles to remember that God is near and is infinitely concerned for His own glory.

Therefore Ezekiel calls us to refuse the temptation to place our hope in an imagined past or an alluring present but instead to repent and to wait for God's future salvation.

# **Outline:**

- |             |  |                      |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>God is Present in Exile</b>             | <b>Ezekiel 1-3</b>   |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>God is Present to Judge in Judah</b>    | <b>Ezekiel 4-24</b>  |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>God is Present to Judge the Nations</b> | <b>Ezekiel 25-32</b> |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>God is Present to Save His People</b>   | <b>Ezekiel 33-48</b> |

# Outline:

- I. God is Present in Exile
- II. God is Present to Judge in Judah
  - A. God's Message: I am present Ezekiel 4-5
  - B. God's Message: I hate idolatry Ezekiel 6-7
  - C. God's Message: I will not dwell  
with idolaters Ezekiel 8-11

**Proposition:** Idolatry can be found in those things that seem most religious, but God will not dwell with idolaters. God will dwell with the despised who grieve over idolatry instead of the presumptuous and powerful who use God's name.

- A. God cannot overlook His people's idolatry
- B. God will purge idolatry from among His people
- C. From Ezekiel to Jesus
- D. Applications

**GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

A Tale of Two Journeys

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

## **1. Two different journeys**

### **a. Ezekiel's journey**

## **EZEKIEL 8:2-4**

*<sup>2</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man. Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal. <sup>3</sup> He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. <sup>4</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.*



## **EZEKIEL 8:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy.<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations."*

## **EZEKIEL 8:7-13**

*<sup>7</sup> And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, dig in the wall." So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance.<sup>9</sup> And he said to me, "Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here."<sup>10</sup> So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel.<sup>11</sup> And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up.<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, "The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land."<sup>13</sup> He said also to me, "You will see still greater abominations that they commit."*

## **EZEKIEL 8:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the LORD, and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these."*

## **EZEKIEL 8:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup> And he brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. And behold, at the entrance of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs to the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east, worshiping the sun toward the east.<sup>17</sup> Then he said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it too light a thing for the house of Judah to commit the abominations that they commit here, that they should fill the land with violence and provoke me still further to anger? Behold, they put the branch to their nose.<sup>18</sup> Therefore I will act in wrath. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. And though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."*

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

## **1. Two different journeys**

**a. Ezekiel's journey**

**b. God's journey**

## **EZEKIEL 8:2-4**

*<sup>2</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a form that had the appearance of a man. Below what appeared to be his waist was fire, and above his waist was something like the appearance of brightness, like gleaming metal. <sup>3</sup> He put out the form of a hand and took me by a lock of my head, and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the gateway of the inner court that faces north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy.*

*<sup>4</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the valley.*

## **EZEKIEL 9:3**

<sup>3</sup> Now *the glory of the God of Israel* had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.

## **EZEKIEL 10:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *And **the glory of the LORD** went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.* <sup>5</sup> *And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.*



## **EZEKIEL 10:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> Then **the glory of the LORD** went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. <sup>19</sup> And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

## **EZEKIEL 11:22-25**

*<sup>22</sup> Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and **the glory of the God of Israel** was over them.<sup>23</sup> **And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.**<sup>24</sup> And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to the exiles. Then the vision that I had seen went up from me.<sup>25</sup> **And I told the exiles all the things that the LORD had shown me.***

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

- 1. Two different journeys**
- 2. Idolatry can easily be found in those things that seem most religious**

## **God's Place**

At the entrance of  
the north gate



In the wall of the  
inner court



Inside the north gate



At the entrance of  
the House of the Lord

## **Idolatry**

The image of jealousy



Vile images and the  
elders praying to them



Women weeping for  
Tamuz



Twenty-five men  
worshipping the sun

Ezekiel 8:5-6

Ezekiel 8:7-13

Ezekiel 8:14-15

Ezekiel 8:16-18

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

1. Two different journeys

2. Idolatry can easily be found in those things that seem most religious

The place that should have been and seemed most dedicated to God was completely polluted by idolatry

Appearing to be part of God's people, even appearing to be central to the worship of God did not exclude idolatrous practices

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

- 1. Two different journeys**
- 2. Idolatry can easily be found in those things that seem most religious**
- 3. God will not dwell with those who use His Name for idolatrous purposes**

# God's Reaction

In the Temple

Ezekiel 8:2-4



The threshold of the  
Temple

Ezekiel 9:3



The entrance of the  
Temple

Ezekiel 10:18-19



Out of the Temple and  
the city of Jerusalem

Ezekiel 11:22-25

## **EZEKIEL 8:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy.<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, **the great abominations** that the house of Israel are committing here, **to drive me far from my sanctuary?** But you will see still greater abominations."*



# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

- 1. Two different journeys**
- 2. Idolatry can easily be found in those things that seem most religious**
- 3. God will not dwell with those who use His Name for idolatrous purposes**

**God could not dwell with an idolatrous people – idolatry had driven Him away - They would no longer be His people and God would no longer be their God**

**GOD WILL PURGE IDOLATRY FROM AMONG HIS  
PEOPLE**

A Tale of Two Outcomes

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

1. Those who love things other than God will be cast out by God

## **EZEKIEL 9:1-2**

### Ezekiel's journey into the temple



*<sup>1</sup> Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand." <sup>2</sup> And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.*

## **EZEKIEL 9:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.<sup>6</sup> Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the house.<sup>7</sup> Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out." So they went out and struck in the city.<sup>8</sup> And while they were striking, and I was left alone, I fell upon my face, and cried, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you destroy all the remnant of Israel in the outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"*

## **EZEKIEL 9:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great. The land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice. For they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see.'<sup>10</sup> As for me, my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will bring their deeds upon their heads."*

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

- 1. Those who love things other than God will be cast out by God**
- 2. Those who presume upon God's protection will be destroyed by God**

## **EZEKIEL 11:1-4**

This is God's city that He values

We are God's treasured possession

*<sup>1</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east. And behold, at the entrance of the gateway there were twenty-five men. And I saw among them Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. <sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and who give wicked counsel in this city; <sup>3</sup> who say, 'The time is not near to build houses. This city is the cauldron, and we are the meat.' <sup>4</sup> Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man."*



## **EXODUS 19:3-6**

*The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:<sup>4</sup> You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;<sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."*

## EZEKIEL 11:5-12

<sup>5</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind.<sup>6</sup> You have multiplied your slain in this city and have filled its streets with the slain.<sup>7</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Your slain whom you have laid in the midst of it, they are the meat, and this city is the cauldron, but you shall be brought out of the midst of it.<sup>8</sup> You have feared the sword, and I will bring the sword upon you, declares the Lord GOD.<sup>9</sup> And I will bring you out of the midst of it, and give you into the hands of foreigners, and execute judgments upon you.<sup>10</sup> You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel, and you shall know that I am the LORD.<sup>11</sup> This city shall not be your cauldron, nor shall you be the meat in the midst of it. I will judge you at the border of Israel,<sup>12</sup> and you shall know that I am the LORD. For you have not walked in my statutes, nor obeyed my rules, but have acted according to the rules of the nations that are around you."

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

- 1. Those who love things other than God will be cast out by God**
- 2. Those who presume upon God's protection will be destroyed by God**
- 3. Those who mourn over God's people's idolatry will be preserved by God**

## **EZEKIEL 9:1-2**

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*<sup>1</sup> Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."<sup>2</sup> And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.*

## **EZEKIEL 9:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. **And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.** <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.**" <sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. <sup>6</sup> Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, **but touch no one on whom is the mark.**

# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

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- 2. Those who presume upon God's protection will be destroyed by God**
- 3. Those who mourn over God's people's idolatry will be preserved by God**
- 4. It is better to be despised by 'God's people' and loved by God than the inverse**

## **EZEKIEL 11:13**

*<sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, while I was prophesying, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then I fell down on my face and cried out with a loud voice and said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"*

## EZEKIEL 11:14-20

<sup>14</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>15</sup> "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.' <sup>16</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' <sup>17</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' <sup>18</sup> And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. <sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.



# **GOD CANNOT OVERLOOK HIS PEOPLE'S IDOLATRY**

1. Those who love things other than God will be cast out by God
2. Those who presume upon God's protection will be destroyed by God
3. Those who mourn over God's people's idolatry will be preserved by God
4. It is better to be despised by 'God's people' and loved by God than the inverse

# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

The Promise of Ezekiel Fulfilled

# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

1. Jesus is the one who executes final judgment against idolaters in the House of God

## **EZEKIEL 9:5-8**

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## **MATTHEW 24:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.<sup>2</sup> But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."*

## **MATTHEW 23:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.<sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

## **MATTHEW 7:21-23**

*21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

1. Jesus is the one who executes final judgment against idolaters in the House of God
2. Jesus is the one who gathers a scattered people to Himself



## **EZEKIEL 11:14-20**

*<sup>14</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:<sup>15</sup> "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.'<sup>16</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.'<sup>17</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'<sup>18</sup> And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations.<sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,<sup>20</sup> that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

## **I PETER 1:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,<sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*

## **REVELATION 5:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,"<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*

# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

1. Jesus is the one who executes final judgment against idolaters in the House of God
2. Jesus is the one who gathers a scattered people to Himself
3. Jesus is the one who gives a new heart that loves God's law

## **EZEKIEL 11:14-20**

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## HEBREWS 8:8-10

<sup>8</sup> *For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>9</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. <sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

1. Jesus is the one who executes final judgment against idolaters in the House of God
2. Jesus is the one who gathers a scattered people to Himself
3. Jesus is the one who gives a new heart that loves God's law
4. Jesus is the one who will make us God's people and God our God

## **EZEKIEL 11:14-20**

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# **FROM EZEKIEL TO JESUS**

- 1. Jesus is the one who executes final judgment against idolaters in the House of God**
- 2. Jesus is the one who gathers a scattered people to Himself**
- 3. Jesus is the one who gives a new heart that loves God's law**
- 4. Jesus is the one who will make us God's people and God our God**

# **APPLICATIONS**

What should exiles do?

# **APPLICATIONS**

1. We should expect idolatry to masquerade as devotion and we should be on the lookout for it

## God's Place



## Idolatry

At the entrance of  
the north gate



In the wall of the  
inner court



Inside the north gate



At the entrance of  
the House of the Lord

The image of jealousy



Vile images and the  
elders praying to them



Women weeping for  
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Twenty-five men  
worshipping the sun

Ezekiel 8:5-6

Ezekiel 8:7-13

Ezekiel 8:14-15

Ezekiel 8:16-18

## **MATTHEW 7:21-23**

*<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.<sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"*

## II PETER 2:1-3



<sup>1</sup> But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.<sup>2</sup> And **many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

<sup>3</sup> And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

# APPLICATIONS

1. We should expect idolatry to masquerade as devotion and we should be on the lookout for it

What things might we need to watch out for?

*Out there:*

Money

Sensuality

Lawlessness

*In here:*

Sports

Politics

Self-Righteousness

*We use God's name  
to pursue our own:*

*Pleasure*

*Power*

*Pride*



# **APPLICATIONS**

1. We should expect idolatry to masquerade as devotion and we should be on the lookout for it
2. Instead of joining the idolatry of God's people, we should mourn over it

## **EZEKIEL 9:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. **And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.**<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, **and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.**"<sup>5</sup> And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity."<sup>6</sup> Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, **but touch no one on whom is the mark.**

# I CORINTHIANS 5:1-2

A type of idolatry in the Corinthian Church

<sup>1</sup> *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.<sup>2</sup> And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.*

They celebrated idolatry (a real danger...)

The correct response: to mourn and to remove idolatry

Will idolaters in the church like this? No, but it's better to be despised by idolaters and loved by God than the inverse...

## **EZEKIEL 11:14-20**

*<sup>14</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me:<sup>15</sup> "Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, all of them, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Go far from the LORD; to us this land is given for a possession.'<sup>16</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.'<sup>17</sup> Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'<sup>18</sup> And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations.<sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,<sup>20</sup> that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

# **APPLICATIONS**

1. We should expect idolatry to masquerade as devotion and we should be on the lookout for it
2. Instead of joining the idolatry of God's people, we should mourn over it
3. We should love God wholeheartedly now and wait for His future salvation

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## **MATTHEW 22:37**

*<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.<sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.*

## II PETER 3:11-13

*<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!<sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*



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**Proposition:** Idolatry can be found in those things that seem most religious, but God will not dwell with idolaters. God will dwell with the despised who grieve over idolatry instead of the presumptuous and powerful who use God's name.

- A. God cannot overlook His people's idolatry
- B. God will purge idolatry from among His people
- C. From Ezekiel to Jesus
- D. Applications