

SERMON:

Ezekiel 6-7

God's Declaration: I Hate Idolatry

“Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

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:

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

Outline:

I. God is Present in Exile

A. God's Glory Appears

Ezekiel 1

B. God's Messenger Appointed

Ezekiel 2-3

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

Proposition: God is infinitely concerned for His own glory and hates those things that detract from His glory. So God particularly hates it when His people pursue something other than Himself.

A. God Hates Idolatry

B. Because God is Infinitely Concerned for His Own Glory

C. So God is Going to Destroy Idolaters to Display His Own Glory

D. Applications

GOD HATES IDOLATERS

Seeking things other than God is
unacceptable among God's people

GOD HATES IDOLATERS

1. Israel was full of idolatry

EZEKIEL 6:1-6

¹ The word of the LORD came to me:² "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,³ and say, 'You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.⁴ Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols.⁵ And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars.⁶ Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

GOD HATES IDOLATERS

- 1. Israel was full of idolatry**
- 2. God saw the idolatry of Israel**

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¹ The word of the LORD came to me:² "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,³ and say, 'You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.⁴ Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols.⁵ And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars.⁶ Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

GOD HATES IDOLATERS

- 1. Israel was full of idolatry**
- 2. God saw the idolatry of Israel**
- 3. God hated the idolatry of Israel**

EZEKIEL 6:8-9 God grieved over and hated His people's idolatry

⁸ "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.

GOD HATES IDOLATERS

- 1. Israel was full of idolatry**
- 2. God saw the idolatry of Israel**
- 3. God hated the idolatry of Israel**

KIDS' QUESTION:

**HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT
IDOLATRY?**

God hates idolatry

**BECAUSE GOD IS INFINITELY CONCERNED FOR
HIS OWN GLORY**

Only God Is Worthy of Pursuing

GOD IS INFINITELY CONCERNED FOR HIS GLORY

1. God's glory is the supreme good

EZEKIEL 6:6-7

⁶ Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.⁷ And the slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 6:8-10

⁸ "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."

EZEKIEL 6:13-14

¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to all their idols.¹⁴ And I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land desolate and waste, in all their dwelling places, from the wilderness to Riblah. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

EZEKIEL 7:1-4

¹ The word of the LORD came to me:² "And you, O son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.³ Now the end is upon you, and I will send my anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will punish you for all your abominations.⁴ And my eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity, but I will punish you for your ways, while your abominations are in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

EZEKIEL 7:8-9

⁸ Now I will soon pour out my wrath upon you, and spend my anger against you, and judge you according to your ways, and I will punish you for all your abominations.⁹

And my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity. I will punish you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD, who strikes.

EZEKIEL 7:27

²⁷ The king mourns, the prince is wrapped in despair, and the hands of the people of the land are paralyzed by terror. According to their way I will do to them, and according to their judgments I will judge them, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

GOD IS INFINITELY CONCERNED FOR HIS GLORY

- 1. God's glory is the supreme good**
- 2. Idolatry is loving something other
than God**

EZEKIEL 6:8-9

The definition of idolatry is trading the pursuit of God's glory for something lesser

⁸ "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.



ROMANS 1:21-23

The definition of idolatry is trading the pursuit of God's glory for something lesser

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools,²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

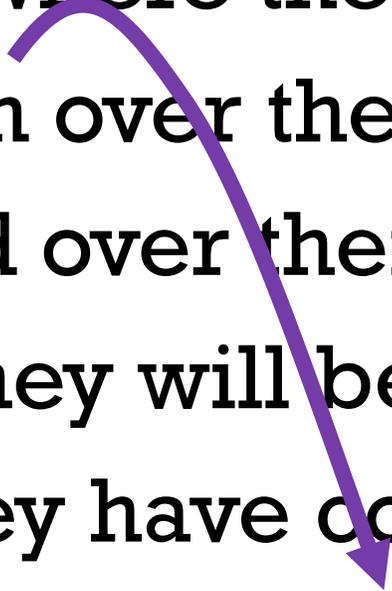
GOD IS INFINITELY CONCERNED FOR HIS GLORY

- 1. God's glory is the supreme good**
- 2. Idolatry is loving something other
than God**
- 3. So God hates idolatry because it
detracts from His glory**

EZEKIEL 6:9-10

God hates idolatry because He cannot let His glory be ignored or devalued.

⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.



¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."

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- 1. God's glory is the supreme good**
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- 3. So God hates idolatry because it
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- 4. And God wants His people to hate
idolatry as well**

EZEKIEL 6:9-10

God hates idolatry and He wants His people to hate idolatry as well because they love His glory

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KIDS' QUESTION:

WHY DOES GOD HATE IDOLATRY?

Because idolatry distracts us
from God's glory.

**SO GOD IS GOING TO DESTROY IDOLATERS TO
DISPLAY HIS OWN GLORY**

Those who don't pursue God's glory
will be destroyed for God's glory

GOD WILL DESTROY IDOLATERS FOR HIS GLORY

1. God will destroy idolaters

EZEKIEL 6:1-6

¹ The word of the LORD came to me:² "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,³ and say, 'You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.⁴ Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols.⁵ And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars.⁶ Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

GOD WILL DESTROY IDOLATERS FOR HIS GLORY

- 1. God will destroy idolaters**
- 2. God will destroy idolaters to show
them His glory**

EZEKIEL 7:1-4

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- 1. God will destroy idolaters**
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- 3. God will destroy idolaters to show the
nations His glory**

EZEKIEL 6:8-9

⁸ "Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries,⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.

GOD WILL DESTROY IDOLATERS FOR HIS GLORY

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nations His glory**

KIDS' QUESTION:

**WHAT WILL GOD DO
ABOUT IDOLATRY?**

God will destroy idolaters
to display His glory.

APPLICATIONS

A call to pursue God's glory alone

APPLICATIONS: A CALL TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY

1. We must recognize idolatry

EZEKIEL 6:8-9

This was happening among God's people when they claimed to be worshiping God



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²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools,²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Am I pursuing, or is my life marked by anything other than God's glory?
Do the pursuits of my life testify to the world that God is my greatest joy?

APPLICATIONS: A CALL TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY

1. We must recognize idolatry

- Am I pursuing anything other than God's glory?

2. We must respect God's wrath

EZEKIEL 6:1-6

¹ The word of the LORD came to me:² "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,³ and say, 'You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.⁴ Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols.⁵ And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars.⁶ Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out.

ROMANS 2:1-5

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges.

For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.² We know that the

judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.³ Do

you suppose, O man---you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself---that you will escape the judgment of God?

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to

repentance?⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are

storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous

judgment will be revealed.

APPLICATIONS: A CALL TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY

1. We must recognize idolatry

- Am I pursuing anything other than God's glory?

2. We must respect God's wrath

- Do I rightly fear God's wrath?

3. We must flee from idolatry

EZEKIEL 6:9-10

God hates idolatry and He wants His people to hate idolatry as well because they love His glory

⁹ then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.

¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."

I COR 10:14-22

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

I COR 10:14-22

¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

I JOHN 5:21

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Am I willing to forsake everything that distracts me from God's glory?
Or, are there things in my life that aren't pursuing God's glory, but I love them too much to give them up?

APPLICATIONS: A CALL TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY

1. We must recognize idolatry

- Am I pursuing anything other than God's glory?

2. We must respect God's wrath

- Do I rightly fear God's wrath?

3. We must flee from idolatry

- Am I willing to forsake everything that distract me from God's glory?

4. We must pursue God's glory

EZEKIEL 6:9-10

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COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Will I intentionally pursue seeing and loving the glory of God?
Or, will I be content with the distractions of this earth?**

APPLICATIONS: A CALL TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY

1. We must recognize idolatry

- Am I pursuing anything other than God's glory?

2. We must respect God's wrath

- Do I rightly fear God's wrath?

3. We must flee from idolatry

- Am I willing to forsake everything that distract me from God's glory?

4. We must pursue God's glory

- Will I intentionally set my mind and focus on God's glory?

Proposition: God is infinitely concerned for His own glory and hates those things that detract from His glory. So God particularly hates it when His people pursue something other than Himself.

A. God Hates Idolatry

B. Because God is Infinitely Concerned for His Own Glory

C. So God is Going to Destroy Idolaters to Display His Own Glory

D. Applications